

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL



Winter 2011 - Volume XC Number 3

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LOOK
JOURNAL

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Triumph

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Welcome

Dear Members,

Welcome to the new-look NRA Journal, which we hope will respond to your calls for a more lively Journal with wider coverage of the range of full-bore disciplines. It comes at a time when British full-bore shooting is as successful as it has ever been, and when we are initiating considerable change at the NRA.

It is heartening to see the spectacular performance of the British team in the World Championships for the Palma Trophy in Brisbane in October, and Richard Jeens's superb win in the World Long-Range Individual Championship with David Luckman coming third. This topped off our earlier win in the Australia Match. Clearly in sporting terms, full-bore shooting is in great shape.

If only the same could be said for the governance of shooting.

All of the Trustees share the frustrations of members over the recent financial performance of the Association. Fundamentally, it undermines our ability to support the sport, whether at Bisley or across the country – indeed, it threatens

our very survival. When I became your Chairman, I had hoped to see 300-metre ranges constructed in each Sports Council area, but it is clear that these are now some years away. Alongside that, we have seen little progress in efforts to co-ordinate shooting disciplines to take advantage of Sport England funding.

I believe those things are changing. First, we have initiated a comprehensive restructuring at the NRA, aimed at making the organisation 'fit for purpose'. For the past four months, Derrick Mabbott, one of the Trustees who led the development of our medium-term strategy, has stepped in as Chief Executive of both the NRA and the National Shooting Centre. It is clear that there is much to do. Derrick shares more about those changes in this issue of the Journal (see page 6).

On the issue of collaboration between governing bodies, I am delighted to tell you that we have seen real progress here, with Sport England funds being routed through British Shooting while GBTSF is being dissolved. With Hamish McInnes as Chief Executive and John



Harris as Chairman of British Shooting, I am confident that we will see real progress. Again, Derrick will share some of that in his report.

While the NRA has gone through some difficult times, I believe we are making tangible steps towards a much more successful future. I am excited to be part of it.

Finally, I would like to thank James Watson for his leadership of the Membership Committee for the last six years. During that time membership of the NRA has increased by about 50 per cent and subscription rates have been reduced considerably. James has now completed six years as a member of Council and under our rules must stand down. I look forward to welcoming his successor in due course.

**Robin Pizer,
Chairman**



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION



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Cover: Richard Jeens

Cover photo by: James Watson

Editor: James Marchington

Assistant editor: Colin Fallon

Editorial team: Anthony Platt, Louise Rea, Nick Robbins, Gabrielle Smith, Nicola Turner, Katie Williams

Graphic design: Chris Sweeney

Ad design: Ryan Dixon

Advertising sales: Shirley Wylde

Operations director: James Folkard

Assistant publisher: Ruth Burgess

Publisher: Wes Stanton

Contributors: Vince Bottomley, Tony de Launay, Helena Douglas, Tim Finley, Paul Grannell, Laurie Holland, Alan Keating, Richard Kenchington, Chris Parkin, Alan Whittle

NRA Chairman: Robin Pizer

Chief executive: Derrick Mabbott

T: 01483 797777

F: 01483 797285

W: www.nra.org.uk

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T: 01926 339808

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The NRA's new structure

NRA Group Chief Executive Derrick Mabbott writes on how and why the NRA is changing, and what benefits the new-look NRA will bring to members



The restructuring explained

Over the last two years, every member of the NRA has been disappointed with the performance of the Association and the National Shooting Centre at Bisley. As we lose money, we cannot invest in the world's greatest shooting venue, nor can we support full-bore shooting in the rest of the country. Last year, the Trustees set a strategy for the Association, which we clearly understood that the organisation could not support in its current form. Once the true state of our finances was clarified with our 2010 accounts being signed off in June, we determined to set in motion plans that we had been thinking about since last year.

We have decided to end the organisational division between the NRA and the NSC, flatten the structure, reduce costs and shift our focus to the things that matter most to our members. While the split of the NRA and NSC was done for what I am sure were good reasons at the time, in practice it has proved unhelpful. The NSC remains as an accounting vehicle for our commercial activities.

As part of this process, we have created the new role of group chief executive, whose responsibility spans both the NRA and the NSC. As an interim step, I am fulfilling that role, and have put in place a series of initiatives to make the organisation 'fit for purpose'. Clearly, with the merging of the two organisations, I have had to look hard

at the senior layers of management to cut costs and flatten the structure. It is therefore with regret that I have decided to make both the NSC managing director, Jeremy Staples, and the secretary general, Glynn Alger, redundant. In the future, leadership of both the Association and the NSC lies with the group chief executive role, which will also embody the role of secretary general.

It goes without saying that I and the rest of the Trustees want to express our gratitude to both men for the contribution they have made in the last six or seven years, and we wish them both every success in the future.

As a prelude to the restructuring, Roger Boyd, Tony Cornwell and Ron Pooley have resigned from the NSC Board. I and the rest of the Trustees thank them for their contribution. The current membership of the NSC Board is Mik Maksimovic, Russell Neighbour and myself.

Below, you will find details of some of the initiatives we are putting in place to make the NRA a stronger organisation. None of these programmes is anywhere near enough, but the Trustees and staff of the NRA are committed to turning the organisation around, and I believe we have made a solid start. I very much hope that you will agree and that you will see much more progress in the future.

Organisational review

As well changes at the top, I am leading a thorough review of the entire organisation. In the last four months it has become clear that the financial challenges of 2010 were the result of systemic issues stretching back many years. It is also clear that the staff share our frustrations as well as our commitment to turn the Association around. Investment has been lacking in every aspect of our Association, including ranges, buildings, IT and not least of all, people.

Making this organisation fit for purpose means new processes and controls across virtually every area. We are implementing new financial controls, new HR processes and a cost reduction programme that will return us to surplus and free up funds for badly needed investment. Initially, we will invest in Bisley so we can generate greater income, better serve the needs of our members and customers, and be able to invest still further in our sport at the NSC and across the country.

Retirements and new staff

We said goodbye to eight staff over the age of 65 in September. These were Jim Baldwin who had worked for us for over 43 years, Michael Blythe, Geoff Doe, John Gardener, David Mumford, Andy Pearse, Les Pulling and Mike Riddle. We thank them for their many and varied contributions over the years and wish them a long and happy retirement.

The Trustees have appointed Nick Karavias to the reintroduced post of Estate Manager and Iain Robertson, recently retired from the RAF, to the job of Firearms Liaison Officer.

New initiatives

While these actions are critical, we cannot be inward-looking. We have revised our plans with the Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC) to produce a new lower risk plan with a better return in terms of the refurbishment of our ranges. We have implemented security patrols at night at Bisley and plan to move to 24-hour security in 2012. We have begun a refurbishment programme on the ablution blocks and will place keypad locks on these facilities to prevent vandalism and unauthorised access. We are grateful to Russell Neighbour for help in providing plans and costs for these and other improvements, which we expect to come on stream next year. We have also just hired an additional cleaner to help with the long-running problem of keeping the facilities in an acceptable condition.

We have changed the way service charges for tenants are calculated to put them on a more logical basis. From 2011, they are based on council tax band or Rateable Value. I am very grateful to one of our chartered surveyor members, Richard Baillie, for taking the time to sort this out and dealing with the anomalies.

We have taken back Trethewey Lodge and the HAC site from the previous tenants. These will be advertised for lease shortly.

Away from Bisley

As well as making changes at the National Shooting Centre, we must also consider those members and clubs who do not regularly visit Bisley. We have very recently been awarded £80,000 by Sport England and British Shooting that we intend to devote to heavily subsidised training programmes for RCOs, coaches and the like in locations exclusively away from Bisley.

Disabled & youth shooting

We are making a push on disabled shooting. We are refurbishing the firing points on Stickledown over the winter and will incorporate better disabled access within this. We have secured £10,000 from Sport England and British Shooting to buy specialised equipment for use by disabled shooters. Furthermore, we have a new relationship with the military rehabilitation centre at Headley Court. Once a month, a group of wounded service personnel will visit Bisley to shoot for free. The first event was in November and in many cases it was the first time they had experienced 'loud bangs' since they received their injuries. We are already working with the staff at Headley Court as to how we can support their rehabilitation programmes through our sport.

Youth shooting is another area that cannot be ignored. We are devoting most of our 'returned sighters' to youth shooting as opposed to making them available to adult members.

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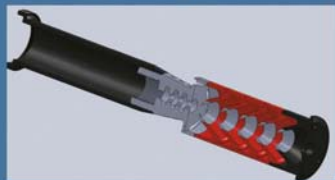
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F-Class European Championships

Bisley played host to the world's biggest annual F-Class event on 4-5 November – and the results are in

Ukraine's Vyacheslav Kovalskii and Britain's Stuart Anselm took the Open and F/TR titles respectively at the largest F-Class European Championships to date, which attracted 171 shooters from 12 countries.

Taking place across Friday 4 and Saturday 5 November at Bisley, the Europeans consisted of individual matches at 800, 900 and 1,000 yards on both days, all consisting of two sighters and 15 shots to count except the final 1,000 which required 20 score shots. The weather forecast predicted a wet and windy couple of days, but in the end there was only one heavy shower that coincided with Friday's first relay, after which things stayed dry.

Kovalskii was off the blocks straight away in Open, ending as one of a group to shoot 75.8v in Match 1. Match 2 saw a tougher test, with Kovalskii's compatriot Dmytro Hrymalyuk the only shooter to score 75, but Kovalskii was back on form with a 74.5v in Match 3, taking the stage medal on countback from Gary Costello.

Friday's F/TR matches saw another Ukrainian, Alexandr Nicolaev, storm into the lead with 214.21v at the end of the day. He led two British shooters: reigning champion Russell Simmonds on 212.14v and George Barnard on 210.11v. Stuart Anselm lay in fifth at this point.

Saturday started dark and foggy, soon clearing to a dull, overcast day with the occasional spot of drizzle. The wind had shifted nearly 180 degrees to a fishtailing headwind gradually veering to the right.

Spanish and German shooters now began to challenge the Ukrainian and British dominance. Dario Sanchez Ibarguren shot a superb 75.9v in the first F/TR stage of the day, while Germany's Ulrich Kwade was one of four shooters to score 75.11v in the equivalent Open stage, taking the stage victory on countback.

Two more Germans triumphed in Match 5: Volker

Zeitz took the Open stage with 75.9v – winning on countback from Vyacheslav Kovalskii, who retained his overall lead – and Reinhard Lang topped the F/TR stage with 73.9v. At this stage, overnight leader Nicolaev dropped back with a 67.2v, allowing Stuart Anselm – who also shot a 73 – to rise to the top.

Anselm capitalised on the opening in the 20-shot 1,000-yard match – with 95.6v, he took the stage and the overall European title. Meanwhile, there were no surprises in Open – Kovalskii secured a three-point margin of victory overall, with Dmytro Hrymalyuk in third to ensure an impressive performance from the Ukrainian athletes. GB F-Class Association league champion rivals Simon Rodgers and Gary Costello took second and fourth spots respectively.

The Europeans also constituted the final stage of the GB F-Class championships. The aforementioned rivalry between Simon Rodgers and Gary Costello went all the way to countback – and it was Gary who the rules favoured, although in a magnanimous gesture, he handed one of the winner's prizes to Simon.

F/TR shooters, meanwhile, have become used to seeing a two-horse race between Russell Simmonds and Adam Bagnall – and this year it was the former who took the title, ahead of Adam by a single point. ■

Results courtesy of Laurie Holland. Photos by Vince Bottomley and Alan Keating.



F-CLASS EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS: FINAL RESULTS

OPEN		F/TR	
Vyacheslav Kovalskii (UKR)	466.45v	Stuart Anselm (GBR)	452.33v
Gary Costello (GBR)	463.36v	Adam Bagnall (GBR)	442.24v
Dmytro Hrymalyuk (UKR)	463.33v	Steve Donaldson (GBR)	442.23v
Simon Rodgers (GBR)	461.45v	Maksim Semonovych (UKR)	441.25v
Marco Been (NED)	461.39v	George Barnard (GBR)	441.24v
Liam Fenlon (IRL)	461.39v	Paul Eggerman (GER)	441.19v
Olaf Jones (GBR)	461.33v	Enrique Cabrera Orti (ESP)	440.28v
Rudolf Eckbauer (GER)	460.34v	Adrian Casey (IRL)	440.25v
Vitaly Bragar (UKR)	460.33v	Alexandr Nicolaev (UKR)	438.32v
Mark Daish (GBR)	459.43v	Richard Jones (GBR)	438.19v



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The N.S.R.A. Shop at the Lord Roberts Centre, Bisley

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Tinnitus tamed?

Relief may be at hand for shooters plagued by tinnitus. Originating from the Julich Research Institute in Germany, Acoustic CR Neuromodulation has impressed in recent clinical trials, with seven out of 10 patients experiencing a significant reduction in tinnitus severity.

The treatment targets the cause rather than the symptoms, with a compact device (pictured) transmitting a unique set of tones to the patient's auditory cortex for four to six hours a day. The length of treatment is decided on after a full audiological assessment at the recently opened Tinnitus Clinic in Harley Street, London.

For further information, call the Tinnitus Clinic on 0203 326 1777 or visit the website www.thetinnitusclinic.co.uk.



Expanding ammo issue cleared up

The use of Hornady A-Max US-manufactured target shooting rounds is still permitted for target shooting purposes. Confusion initially grew over whether the rounds should be classed as expanding ammunition. ACPO and the Home Office subsequently confirmed that the Hornady ammo can continue in its current usage as it was specifically designed for target shooting.



Island Games 2011

The rifle, pistol and airgun events at the 2011 Natwest Island Games proved to be successful for Gotland who managed to claim six gold medals with Peter and Pontus Nordgren picking up a Games' record in the team air pistol event. Aland and Jersey received five gold medals each, with the Isle of Man, Gibraltar, Isle of Wight and Guernsey picking up four, three, two and one gold respectively.

With 101 competitors shooting in 26 events (some entering as many as eight events), the Target Shooting Organising Committee, headed by Derek Toms and Barry Hall, were praised for making sure the event ran smoothly. They were able to get Section 5 guns over to the Isle of Wight to allow those disciplines to be shot at the Games.

Vizianagram brings the media to Bisley

The 108th Vizianagram, an annual shoot held between representatives of the House of Commons and House of Lords, saw the world's media descend on Bisley. However, rather than having a new-found interest in shooting, the press was clamouring for interviews with John Whittingdale, captain of the House of Commons team, after the Culture, Media and Sport Committee he chairs had questioned Rupert and James Murdoch and Rebekah Brooks three days before.

There was good news on the day for Mr. Whittingdale as he captained the Commons to victory in the event shot over 500 and 600 yards. There was also evidence that MPs' scores are improving as the years go by: the Commons' five counting scores this year averaged 90, as opposed to 85 last year.

The first match between the House of Commons and the House of Lords took place on 5 July 1862 at Wimbledon, with the Lords winning on that occasion. In 1875 the Maharajah of Vizianagram provided the funds for a pair of large silver parcel-gilt vases, which still serve as the trophy for the match today.

FULL-BORE FORUM IS ONE YEAR OLD

The UK full-bore forum, www.full-bore.co.uk, has just celebrated its first birthday. Established in November 2010 to give UK shooters a place to discuss the vagaries of all shooting disciplines, the forum has since attracted more than 400 members and seen more than 50,000 posts. It has dedicated sections for shooting organisations including the NRA and even organises its own shoots.

GUN OWNERSHIP AND SHOOTING IN FRANCE EBOOK

Best-selling author Alan Pearce has released an ebook titled 'Gun Ownership & Shooting in France'. The illustrated, how-to guide details how to join the three main sports federations and info on buying, storing and transporting guns. It's available at www.alanpearce.com/gun for €3.99.

GBR ACTION IN STAINLESS STEEL

Fox Firearms has stainless steel versions of the GBR action available in matt or polished finishes. The action is based on the Remington 700 and is built to custom standards to fit a variety of stocks and triggers. Visit www.foxfirearmsuk.com for availability.

BERGER'S HYBRID 30S

Berger Bullets has launched a range of new .30 calibre Hybrid bullets. The range includes six models between 155-230gn with the Hybrid title coming from the combination of the secant and tangent ogive nose-shapes. UK importers, Norman Clark Gunsmiths Ltd. and Hannams Reloading Ltd, expect to see delivery in the new year.

Jeens is World Champ

Australia and Palma titles are retained by Team GB in Brisbane, and Richard Jeens wins the individual world title

Three years of planning came to fruition at the Belmont Range in Brisbane, Australia, when Great Britain retained the Long Range World Team Championship title – the Palma Trophy. The team also won the Australia Match, shot at both long and short ranges, while Richard Jeens put another feather in the British cap by winning the individual world title.

For GB captain John Webster, victory in the Australia and Palma matches was his goal: "We set out to win the two big competitions, so to do that and have Richard come first in the individuals was a spectacular achievement and payback for an incredible amount of work."

The Australia Match saw sunny conditions with a tricky fishtail wind. A very competitive field meant it was a close fight over 300 and 600 yards, with heat and wind affecting performance.

The Brits entered the 1,000 yard phase in third place behind the USA and South Africa. A decision to delay for the wind to drop made for a tense wait while the competition made a strong start.

South Africa lost two points over its first four shooters; Australia lost three and the USA four. The

RESULTS

2011 AUSTRALIA MATCH RESULT

Great Britain	1969.203
South Africa	1965.189
USA	1962.195
Australia	1957.203
Canada	1952.179
New Zealand	1938.138

2011 PALMA MATCH RESULT

Great Britain	7027.651
South Africa	6992.651
USA	6980.655
Australia	6966.603
Canada	6911.563
New Zealand	6894.533



delaying tactic paid off as the wind dropped, giving team GB a four-point lead with two firers to go before the closing shooters produced a slick pair of 50s to win.

The Palma Match takes place over two days with each country putting forward four target teams of four firers, each with a wind reader and coach. Shooting over 800, 900 and 1,000 yards, each firer has two sighters and 15 shots to count at a 50cm bull's eye.

Expectations were high after the Australia Match. The pressure became stronger as the team set about defending the Palma for the third time. Despite challenging conditions, they topped the scoring at 800 and 900 yards to take a 13-point lead.

The afternoon saw the team shooting at 1,000 yards on the windier side but, as John Webster explains, they pulled a "blinder" out of the bag: "It was as good a performance as I have ever seen." The result was a 25-point lead at the end of the first day.

As day two started, the Brits were again shooting on the left at 800 and 900 yards, meaning the 1,000-yard range would be on the gustier right. After winning at 800 yards, the team put in a decisive performance at 900 to produce a range match record and go into the final distance with a 40-point lead.

The afternoon's 1,000-yard range started badly – only one of the first eight sighters hit the bull's eye – and the team stopped to regroup. The tactic paid off: the next dead-centre pilot shot rebuilt confidence and the team went on to secure the Palma Match by 35 points, beating South Africa into second place and the USA into third; becoming the first modern day team to win both days of the event.

THE LOGISTICS OF BALLISTICS

It's one thing getting a team of 26 to the other side of the world, but another to manage their rifles and 30,000 rounds of ammunition.

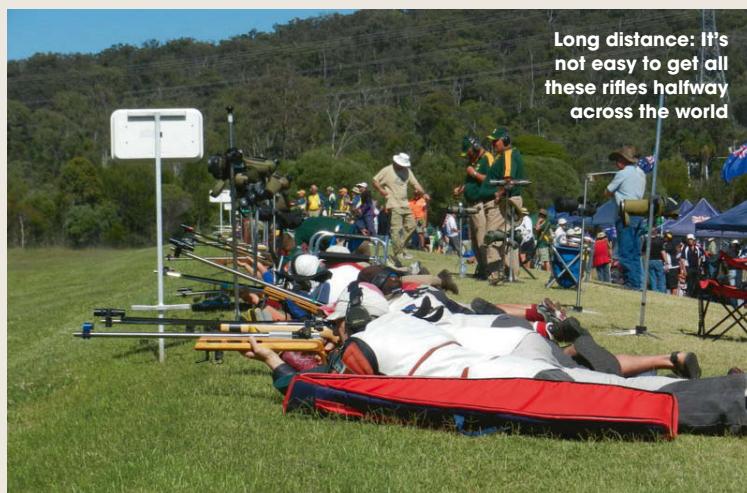
Not only are there weight implications – a rifle case clocks in at 22kg – but the security surrounding the transport of rifles and ammunition is complex.

John Webster, Britain's rifle team captain, explained that with help from experienced firearms dealers, the British police and customs the task is manageable. "We put all the rifles onto a single firearms license meaning they are exported on that license and then imported back in on it too."

With paperwork in place and six weeks to go, Webster was certain there would be no last-minute hitches. However, just 48 hours before departure, he was told that another document was needed to enable the rifles to travel through Indian airspace.

Importing the rifles to Australia was a simpler matter thanks to the Championship being given 'event status', meaning the police and border control were prepared.

"It took only two hours to clear customs in Australia," said Webster, adding that this was indicative of the warm welcome the team received from its hosts. "Touring Australia is fantastic because the competitions are always good and the camaraderie is fantastic. The Aussies adore the banter, they want to win the competition and then afterwards they want to win the party."



Words: Helena Douglas. Photos courtesy of Jon Underwood





Law lord: British solicitor Richard Jeens realises he has done enough to take the world title

GRATITUDE AND VINDICATION

Richard Jeens is a modest world champion. The 31-year-old London solicitor, who won his title using a second-hand rifle bought in 2003, said that while winning the World Individual Long Range Championship is "hugely pleasing and vindicates an awful lot of hard work", it also made up for missing important things like friends' weddings over the past two years. "In some ways it's payback for them and for the people who have helped me along the way – I'd have felt I had let them down if I'd performed badly."

Jeens started shooting at Marlborough College, returning to the sport at Cambridge after rugby injuries got the better of him.

After a goodwill tour with Britain's under-25 team, Jeens was selected to shoot for Wales in 2002. His first GB under-25 cap came in 2003, followed in 2006 by a full GB cap and tour. "From then on I've been shooting more seriously," he said. In 2007 he was on the British team that won the Palma Trophy in Canada, and came eighth in the world individual competition.

Jeens explains that both team and individual target rifle shooting is split into three components: the ability to fire good, consistent shots on target; dealing with wind and weather conditions; and the psychology

and tactics of team and individual competitions. There is a difference between these two, he says: "When you're shooting individually you have to manage all three components yourself – which is both fun and stressful."

Jeens shoots with a used RPA Quadlock rifle with wooden thumbhole stock bought for £1,500 for his first world championships (in 2003 at Bisley) and a much-repaired 12-year-old Kurt Thune jacket. Other than adapting the stock and replacing the barrel regularly, the rifle has stayed the same. "I don't change my kit because it is part of me," he explained. "If my rifle and jacket are right then shooting should be effortless. Everything comes together – you get into a state of rhythm or flow, so can use your concentration on the conditions and tactics, such as when to shoot, reading the wind and whether to shoot aggressively or take a more cautious hedged position."

He explained that 'flow' is easier for him to achieve overseas than at home. "When I'm away, emotionally and mentally the tour and competition becomes my life. I immerse myself in it, which makes getting in the right frame of mind for each shoot easier."

The disadvantage of this immersion, though, is that shooters can get so caught up that they find it hard to step back and think tactics if their performance drops – either in an individual shoot or over a longer course of fire.

"That's one of the hardest features of shooting at the top level, but the challenge of performing in different conditions is what I love most. You need to keep a bit of your brain rational."

Living and breathing a competition of such intensity means that going back to work afterwards is hard. "The reality of excelling at an amateur sport is that it's back to the day job once a competition is over."

For now, the memory of winning the world championships has yet to be erased by piles of legal briefs. Yet Jeens remains modest about his achievement. "In some respects my lower scores were as important to the win as the higher ones, because they allowed me to regroup and focus. Doing this paid off and has since made me even more determined."

His future goal is to be selected for and then make the final of the next World Long Range Rifle Championships in 2015 in the USA. And if that isn't enough, he wants to improve his home performance. "If you look at my record it is undeniably better overseas, so I'd like to remedy that by winning one of the major titles in the UK, such as the Queen's Prize, which my brother won in 2004." If past performance is anything to go by, that ambition is certain to hit a centre bull's eye. ■

CHAMP'S PROGRESS

2001	Great Britain under-25 goodwill team tour, Channel Islands
2002-2011	Represented Wales in all domestic international matches
2003	Great Britain under-25 team, World Championships, Bisley, UK
2003	Wales to South Africa and the Channel Islands
2004	Great Britain under-25 team to South Africa
2005	Wales tour to Canada
2006	Great Britain tour to South Africa
2007	Great Britain tour to Canada (World Championships), Wales to Channel Islands
2009	Wales to South Africa
2010	Great Britain to New Zealand
2011	Great Britain to Australia (World Championships)

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Buckmark Lite Pistol with Mod	£879	Remington 597 TVP Skeleton .22	£599	Marlin 1894 .357 and .44	£669
Buckmark Lite Pistol with M/break	£799	Ruger 10/22 SR Tactical .22	£639	Marlin 1894 Cowboy .357 and .44	£899
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HK MP5 SD6	£579	Savage T/hole Laminate .22	£579	SGC .223 built to order from	£1079
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IMPERIAL CONTROVERSY

EAR PLUG ISSUES

This year I camped near some of the colleges taking part in the Imperial, helping with various bits and pieces.

Unfortunately, one of the young chaps came back early without a shoot as he had forgotten his ear defenders. He was upset with the hole in his first grand agg and the fact he didn't get to shoot because of what he believed a trivial infringement of the rules. He even said he would not come back next year.

Apparently there were no spares about and the RCO wouldn't ask firers on the point about to start for some. I've had similar experiences so I always carry a spare set – had the call for spare plugs gone up I would have gladly given them.

Routes into this sport are limited enough and we need young chaps like him to return – surely we could furnish the RCO tables with some disposable plugs to be sold in aid of Help for Heroes? That would get the message across and keep these interested-if-inexperienced youngsters going. The hearing protection rule is of course necessary, but there are many ways to enforce it without needing to harm the sport or its participants.

Phil Northam



The following note was added to the news section of the NRA website and made me feel utterly miserable:

"Please note that the dates for the Imperial Meeting will be as follows and not as notified in the Summer 2011 Journal:

"2012 – Saturday 7 July to Saturday 21 July;
2013 – Saturday 6 July to Saturday 20 July."

I was really looking forward to having my youngest daughter at Bisley for the meeting but yet again the dates coincide with the last week of school. Clearly the NRA does not understand that the academic year for state schools finishes at the end of the third week in July.

I was also surprised to read that the original dates were not a typographic error. It turns out that the Shooting Committee recommended the later dates and that Council agreed.

But the change was made after some public schools complained, and according to our Chairman the underlying reason is that public schools' students won't come "because the parents will want to take them on holiday, probably for a fortnight".

I was absolutely stunned. Each year I, an NRA life member, try to take leave for the Imperial Meeting. But my daughter will be attending school over that period so I cannot take part in the meeting at all, solely because someone somewhere with a very tenuous connection to shooting might want to take a holiday!

The NRA may think it avoids discrimination in shooting but the Imperial Meeting dates ensure that state school students and staff are precluded from taking part. And regarding 'inconvenience' – the NRA Council is truly disconnected from reality.

Rachel Merridew

THANK YOU

I would be grateful if you could spare a few lines in the next Journal to print my thanks to the honest soul who handed-in my shooting mat, left behind on Century (Saturday 24 September).

Very much appreciated.

Alan Coxon, LTSB RC

BISLEY: A VISION

All members will be aware that the NRA has faced financial troubles over the last few years. Unless a new vision is realised those troubles may fast become terminal.

The introduction of electronic targets is one possibility to raise income. Viewers could watch a competitor fire a shot and instantly see the position of the shot on the target, the score and the shooter's updated position on the leaderboard. It's not a big step from here to imagine TV personalities from the shooting world and bigger prize funds.

The other option concerns the thousands of acres of land the NRA is sitting on. Despite the heritage of shooting at Bisley and this convenient location few tourists bother to visit.

My ideas for improvement: changing the name from 'NSC' to 'WSC' – World Shooting Centre; advertising the WSC to every American boarding a flight to the UK;

opening a reception hall, visitors' centre, World Shooting Museum (combining the NRA, NSRA and CPSA collections), various restaurants, non-shooting attractions, souvenir shop, guided tour, hotel (perhaps Holiday Inn or similar) and more permanent shops.

Both these routes involve costs, but I believe the money can be raised without the NRA accruing any debt. With a solid business proposal in hand, international sponsorship (think British Airways, Coca-Cola, Wal-Mart, Sainsbury's, Microsoft) is increasingly likely. If we can secure Royal patronage and involvement, it is almost guaranteed.

I have been at Bisley every year since 1966 and want to see the place alive, vibrant and thriving. Keeping that special 'Bisley atmosphere' is important – but survival is key.

Colin Grafton



Views expressed in these pages are those of the contributors, and not necessarily of the NRA. Comments and feedback on the issues raised here are welcome.

VIEWPOINT *by Butt Trap*

Engaging youngsters in shooting has been badly neglected in recent years. But what can we do about it?

How to address the issue of getting youngsters into shooting? Firstly, we need to tackle the decline in numbers in the 'hard bullet' sports. Over 90 per cent of children never get the chance to try shooting. Secondly, if children are banned until they attain some arbitrary age, they will almost certainly have been 'captured' by another sport. Thirdly, emphasise the advantages of shooting. Shooting is safer than most other sports: children as young as eight can be seriously injured, or worse, in karting and motorcycle scrambling, and also in football and rugby. Shooting better instils responsibility and teamwork.

What is stopping us? Unfortunately, chiefly it is ourselves. Sadly, too many club officials, and even shooting administrators, focus on what cannot be done, and even impose unnecessary restrictions.

How to keep young shooters interested? Clearly, ear protection and close one-to-one supervision are vital. Also, the choice of gun needs to be matched to physical ability, attitude and responsibility.

Rifles – air, .22 or fullbore – can be rested. Youngsters find open-V foresights, and aperture rearsights, easier to master than scopes. Air pistols are too heavy for most children under eight. Small-calibre pistols (not in the UK at present) are probably the easiest to aim. The picture shows a six-year-old competing recently in a 50-metre competition, competently using his dad's .38 special revolver – and full loads.

What for the future? We need to make young children a common sight at shooting club days. Facilities should be adapted or created to make this safe and easy – it is not

a matter for special arrangements. Targets and competitions should be created to introduce fun – clays, tin cans and so on. An enterprising club in Wiltshire routinely gets six- and seven-year-olds started with .22 rifles. It would be good to hear of others.

Perhaps we should aim to have an 'under 15' team in all age-defined team shoots – within three years. Perhaps the NRA will declare the aim of enabling children at all schools, including state schools, to experience the thrill of shooting by the age of 10.



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- ✚ Find it difficult to follow a conversation in a crowded room or restaurant?
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- ✚ Have friends or relatives complain that you can't hear them when they talk to you?
- ✚ Struggle to keep up in meetings or at work?
- ✚ Have a constant ringing or rushing sound in your ears, particularly at night or when you are tired or stressed?

If so, then you may possibly have a hearing loss and should have your hearing checked by a qualified professional.

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Carol Beecher RHAD FSHAA
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Rimfire *magic*



Ever fancied a custom-made rimfire but worried about the cost? Now you can get a home grown one from Rimfire Magic in south Yorkshire. Tim Finley investigates

There have been many .22 semi-auto rifles made all over the world, but none has the iconic status of the Ruger 10/22. First built in the 1960s and with over five million made, it is a legend.

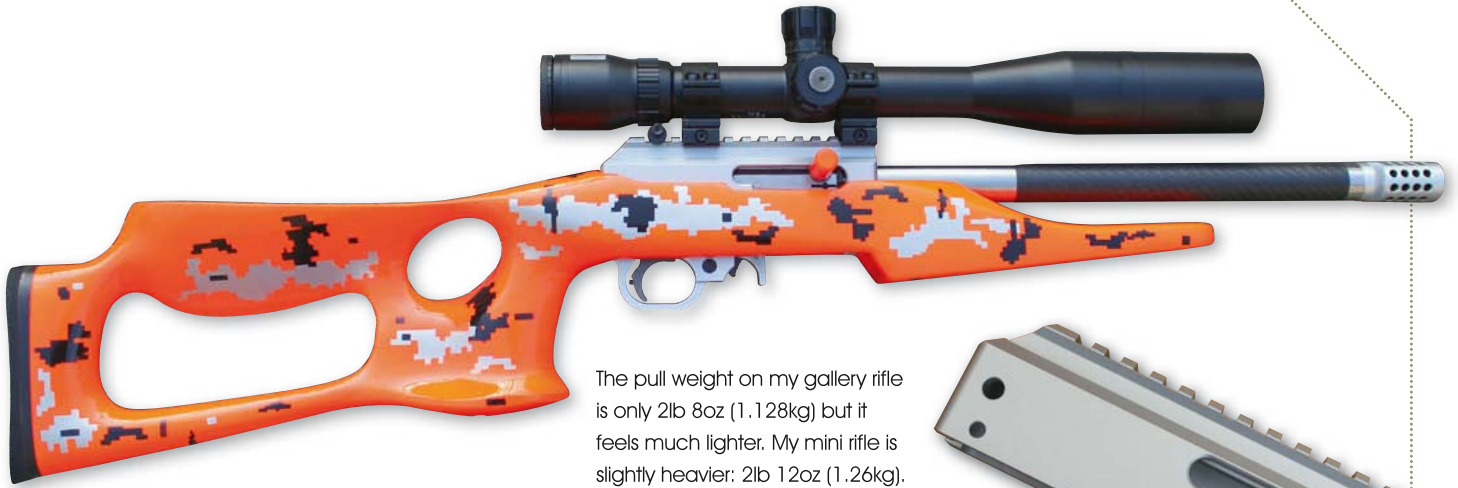
Roger Francis at South Yorkshire Shooting Supplies began customising 10/22s after the handgun ban – previously he had been the man to go to for a tricked-up Glock. Moving on, he has based his fine custom gallery rifles on either the Ruger 10/22 action or indeed another semi-auto based upon the 10/22 made by Volquartsen of the USA.

Recently it has become a lot harder to source basic Ruger rifles at a price cheap enough to allow him essentially to throw most of the rifle away and re-build a custom rifle – this invariably means only the action is left, which is fitted with new stocks, trigger parts and barrels. This has been coupled with massive waiting times to actually get hold of anything from the USA.

All of this is not what Roger's many customers want to hear. For a few years Roger had thought of having his own semi-auto rifle actions made in the UK, and therefore ending his dependence on US-made actions.

Roger Francis holding one of his actions fitted to his RM22 chassis system





The pull weight on my gallery rifle is only 2lb 8oz (1.128kg) but it feels much lighter. My mini rifle is slightly heavier: 2lb 12oz (1.26kg).

He looked at both the standard Ruger manufacturing tolerances and those of Volquartsen, and went for 'something in between the two' for his own action. This was a good idea as Rugers are made to work with whatever ammo the buyer puts through them, in conditions from freezing cold to baking hot given the climatic differences found in the USA.

The Volquartsen actions are match-grade and can be a bit on the tight side. They have to be kept clean, but they are blisteringly accurate – and they come with a hefty price tag to match.

Roger has had his actions made for almost three years now as the Rimfire Magic action. They are made on CNC machines in Yorkshire, in either aluminium or stainless steel. The stainless steel version has a drilled and tapped receiver to fit a Weaver/

Current Ruger 10/22s have synthetic trigger housings, not the metal ones of old. The SYSS metal trigger housing is fitted with an automatic bolt release, extended magazine release and trigger over-travel screw. The actions come as standard in either a black or silver Duracoat finish. Prices for other colours are available on request.

My Rimfire Magic mini rifle is used solely with high-capacity magazines. It has a green painted finish and forward hand grip. I also fitted my own quick magazine release system made out of a piece of steel bar bent into shape. It has a standard stainless Ruger barrel cut down to 12½in and fitted with SYSS's own efficient ported muzzle brake.

I went for a standard barrel as, in a mini rifle, reliability is the deciding factor, not supreme



Finished product: Tim's rifle as it is now with the Volquartsen CF barrel

Key component: The bare Rimfire Magic action

{ The gallery rifle has a blaze orange paint job. With target rifles you can go against the norm and have what would be considered garish colour schemes }

Picatinny rail – these are of course included in the price of the action.

The aluminium action is one piece of metal with an integral, 145mm long Picatinny rail machined into the top. I have shot many 10/22s including Volquartsens, but have never had one on my personal ticket – I just never thought they were reliable enough for me.

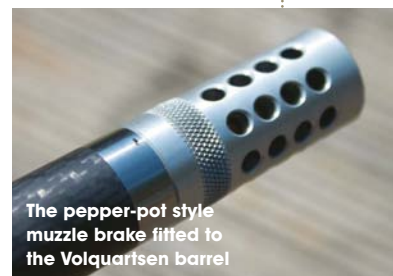
Having seen the design process of the Rimfire Magic action from the start, I knew I had to have one. In fact I now have two Rimfire Magic action rifles of my own, but more on those later.

All Rimfire Magic actions come with a new Ruger factory-cast bolt with EDM extractor. This new cast bolt has already gained a reputation for reliability and it comes with the standard bolt handle. The actions are fitted with a recoil buffer and take-down screw. It features SYSS's own CNC machined trigger housing, featuring a fully-tuned trigger. The internals on the SYSS trigger groups are power custom hammers and sears.

accuracy, and the standard barrel chambering gives you this. It has a Power Custom titanium extended bolt handle, which is essential in mini rifle events to clear stoppages quickly. It has a tactical Tapco stock and has never missed a beat, winning me numerous mini rifle events.

The gallery rifle is a different kettle of fish and has a blaze orange and black/silver digital paint job – courtesy of Dave Wyld of Valkyrie Rifles. Even the power custom titanium extended bolt handle is finished in blaze orange.

With target rifles you can go against the norm and have what would be considered garish colour schemes. I went for a Volquartsen fluted barrel initially, as I thought the short standard barrel of the mini rifle would be a bit too light for TP1 and MT events. I knew the standard barrel was good enough for mini rifle, where speed and reliability is key. But it's not good enough for hitting the v-bull shot after shot on gallery



The pepper-pot style muzzle brake fitted to the Volquartsen barrel



SYSS have their own trigger housings made too



Blaze of glory: The paint job was carried out by Valkyrie Rifles



Three Rimfire Magic action rifles: top in the RM22 chassis, middle in Boyds' Evolution stock, bottom in a Tapco stock for Mini Rifle

rifle targets, even though my first ever TP1 event shot with my mini rifle was an X-Class score.

I initially went for a Volquartsen stainless steel fluted barrel, which added considerable weight onto the front of the gun but was superbly accurate. I shot this at the Phoenix meeting at Bisley and struggled a bit. My scores went down compared to when I used the lighter mini rifle Rimfire Magic rifle on TP1 and Multi Target. I had a bit of a better shoot at the Derby Open with a win in Multi Target in A Class with the long fluted barrel.

I was still finding the barrel heavy and even more so when I changed my scope. I took off a Leapers 3-12x44 compact and put on a Bushnell 2.5-16x42, which is a better quality scope and much bigger and heavier. Once I had done that, I had to reduce the weight of the gun to make it usable for me again, so I swapped the big, heavy barrel for a 12½in Volquartsen carbon fibre barrel from SYSS. This transformed the rifle and made it much easier to shoot.

I shot a personal best in the Advancing Target to win A-Class at the 2011 National Championships at Bisley. The Volquartsen carbon fibre barrel is far more accurate than the standard Ruger barrel on my other gun, so – touch wood – I am hoping my scores will improve. Only time, and the next Gallery rifle season, will tell. Joining Derby RPC, with its turning targets being the same specification as the ones at Bisley, will certainly help me along too.

I recently tested the latest stock option from SYSS: a modular stock based upon the Nordic Components chassis system. It turns the RM action into a modular

type 'Black Rifle' where many fore-stock and rear stock options are possible.

Where the RM22 differs is that it does not have the separate top section to make the sight base the same height as an M4/M16. Good for a cheap practice session in the USA, but it requires the scope to be removed in order to clean the rifle – which is a bit of a design flaw.

The test rifle was fitted with a Rimfire Magic barrel made for SYSS by the Green Mountain barrel company of the USA. These are standard profile match grade barrels threaded half UNF with a 1:16 twist rate.

I highly rate Green Mountain barrels, and I was keen to see what the barrel's Rimfire Magic counterpart shot like. I fitted a Sightron 10x42 scope for range testing at 50 metres along with my own pepper pot-style muzzle brake, which screwed directly onto the threaded barrel. Happily, it turned out to be another blisteringly accurate Green Mountain/Rimfire Magic barrel, shooting a 9.9mm centre-to-centre five-shot group at 50 metres with standard CCI sub-sonic ammo.

The RM22 chassis system is more for mini rifle than gallery rifle competitions and normally such customers go for the Boyds' SS Evolution stock as it is ambidextrous for 1500 and TP2 events.

I have the older Evolution as I prefer the squarer forend and do not yet shoot 1500 events. Rimfire Magic actions are now proven, and many former 10/22 owners have seen what a difference it makes to their shooting. ■

TEST ACTION	
Model	Rimfire Magic
Country of Origin	UK (South Yorkshire)
Calibre	.22LR
Action	10-shot semi-auto blowback
Features	Integral Weaver scope rail – choice of colours
	Can use any stock and magazines made for Ruger 10/22
Price	Action only is NOT supplied
	Aluminium action with trigger £450
	Stainless steel action with trigger £500
	Barrel (12.5in, carbon fibre Volquartsen) £295
	Muzzle brake £50 (Only when part of a SYSS build)
	Plus cost of stock to the customer's specification, see SYSS build list for options
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Something *old...* Something *new...*

Ed Compton's achievement at the 2011 Imperial Meeting was all the more remarkable for his choice of equipment



Top man: Ed Compton makes it to the chair, beating a field of nearly 1,100 entrants

Ed Compton of the Sussex Rifle Association won the Queen's Prize on an afternoon of tempestuous head-on winds that wrought havoc with the field on the Stickledown Hill. He snatched what is arguably the most prestigious prize in shooting wearing a borrowed jacket, with an old rifle liberally plastered with sticky tape – proof, said one commentator, that “one of the great prizes can still be won with talent rather than cash.”

With the wind at the start of the shoot veering in from one and two o'clock and then switching either side of the flags for most of the afternoon, many competitors were to visit far-flung parts of the target.

David Luckman led after 900 yards, with Compton and Rupert Riley sitting on his shoulder. Luckman

and Riley had carried through 150s from stage II and Compton 149. Compton was squadded 2 & 2 in the centre of the butt, Luckman on butt 1 moving up the hill to 3, and Riley on 4 moving all the way down to butt 0 at 1,000 yards.

Luckman fell away at 1,000, but both Compton and Riley were level pegging at 3 off for most of the 1,000-yard shoot. In the end they were level on 297 points but Compton had 35 v-bulls to Riley's 30.

In third place was Parag Patel, two points behind but with 41 v-bulls, and in fourth was Jim Corbett of Australia.

Thirty-year-old Compton had only shot in the St Georges and the Queen's Prize this meeting. The previous afternoon he had been finishing fitting a





Photos by Tony de Launay and Alan Keating

kitchen for a customer in Woking. Now the pipes were playing for him.

On the day he borrowed Glyn Barnett's shooting jacket in which Barnett had twice won the Prize. That jacket is now GM3, and Compton the winner of HM The Queen's Prize with a final score of 297.35 to Riley's 297.30.

This year's Imperial will be remembered as the Bisley Meeting of rain. There have been years with a day or two of heavy rain; other years are more notable for parched brown landscapes and the occasional ineffective shower. 2011, however, brought rain of every sort, and plenty of it – we saw torrents, showers, mizzle and more.

The Imperial Meeting – alternatively titled the Annual Prize Meeting of the National Rifle Association of Great Britain – is probably the biggest, and certainly the most varied and competitive shooting festival in the world. It dates back to the formation of the NRA in 1859, with the first celebration being held at Wimbledon in 1860, no fewer than 30 years before the NRA's move to Bisley in 1890.

The Meeting reflects this long and illustrious history in its organisation and its language. To participate fully, one needs to spend a substantial period of time at Bisley Camp during the Imperial to savour the atmosphere and camaraderie as well as the competition.

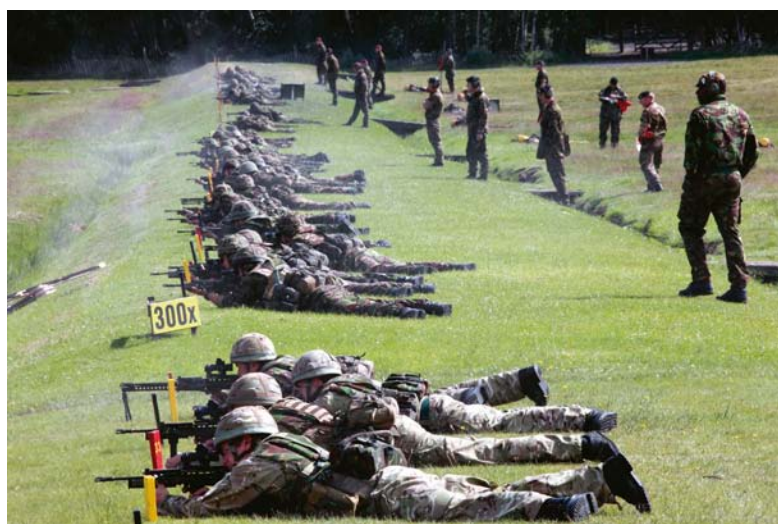
Starting in late June each year, the Meeting reaches its climax on the last Saturday in July (occasionally a

Other years are notable for parched brown landscapes. 2011, however, brought rain of every sort, and plenty of it

week earlier) – the Final of Her Majesty the Queen's Prize, shot at 900 and 1,000 yards between the 100 qualifiers, dubbed The Queen's Hundred, from a field that starts with around 1,100 entrants.

Along the way are awarded Her Majesty's medals for Champion Shots of each of the Armed Forces,

In force: Shooters compete for Her Majesty's medals in the military events, which are marked by a parade



RESULTS

HM The Queen's Prize (900 & 1,000yds): 1. E Compton (Sussex) 297.35; 2. R Riley (ATSC) 297.30; 3. P Patel (Old Epsomians) 295.41; 4. J Corbett (AUS) 295.39.

St Georges Vase (900yds): 1. Patel 150.22/23.1; 2. J Rankin (Surrey) 150.22/22.1; 3. D Dyson (Huddersfield) 150.21.

St Georges Vase: 1. P Patel (Old Epsomians) 150.22/23.1; 2. J Rankin (Surrey RA) 150.22/22.1; 3. D Dyson (Huddersfield) 150.21.

Donaldson Memorial (1,000yds): 1. S Shouler (Langar) 75.12/25.3; 2. D Richardson (Jersey) 75.12/24.2; 3. D Calvert (RAFTRC) 75.11.

Mackinnon (900 & 1,000yds): 1. 1156.126 (G Barnett 98.7); 2. Ireland 1141.116 (D Calvert 99.8); 3. Jersey 1132.100 (D Richardson 97.15).

For full results of all the many competitions that make up the

Imperial Meeting, see the website at www.nra.org.uk.

the Hopton Trophy for the winner in the Match Rifle Grand Aggregate, the solid gold Entente Cordiale trophy for the best competitor in the sniper (McQueen) competition, the Ashburton Shield for the winning School, the magnificent National Challenge Trophy, six feet long and three feet high in solid silver, for competition between the Home Countries at distances up to 600 yards, the great hammered iron Elcho Shield, six feet high, for competition between the Home Countries at 1,000, 1,100 and

1,200 yards, the British Running Deer Championships shot on a moving target, and about 300 other competitions varying from turn-up-and-shoot air rifle events to the target rifle Grand Aggregate, widely regarded as the most stringent test of target rifle shooting.

To enter all the events of a single discipline will require, at most, a commitment of one working week plus the weekends at either end. Other than target rifle and F-Class, most disciplines are organised so that the full course of fire can be completed in at most four working days plus one weekend.

The Meeting was originally designed to encourage the 19th Century Volunteer movement to practise marksmanship. As such, there has never been a performance bar to entry, and one of the great attractions is that the most junior cadet may be shooting alongside the World Champion. Provided that you are safe, you can actually hit the target somewhere, and have read and are following the rules, you will be welcome.

For details of how to enter next year's competitions, follow the instructions on the NRA website at www.nra.org.uk. ■

Wear it well: It's a first Queen's Prize for Ed Compton but a third for his jacket, borrowed from Glyn Barnett



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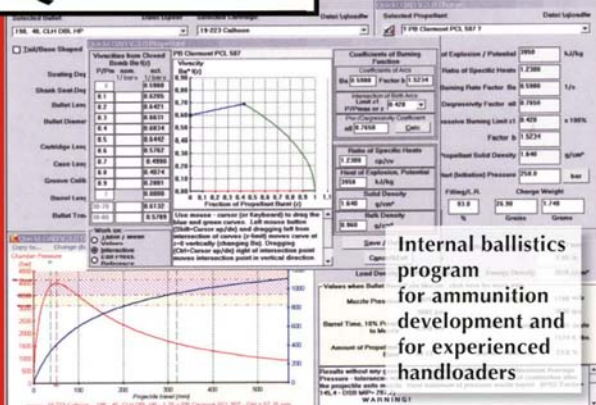
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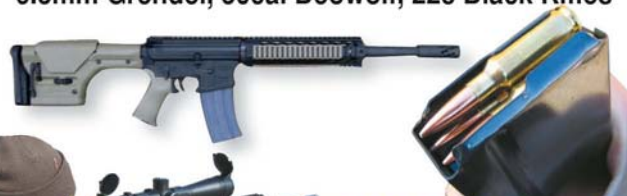


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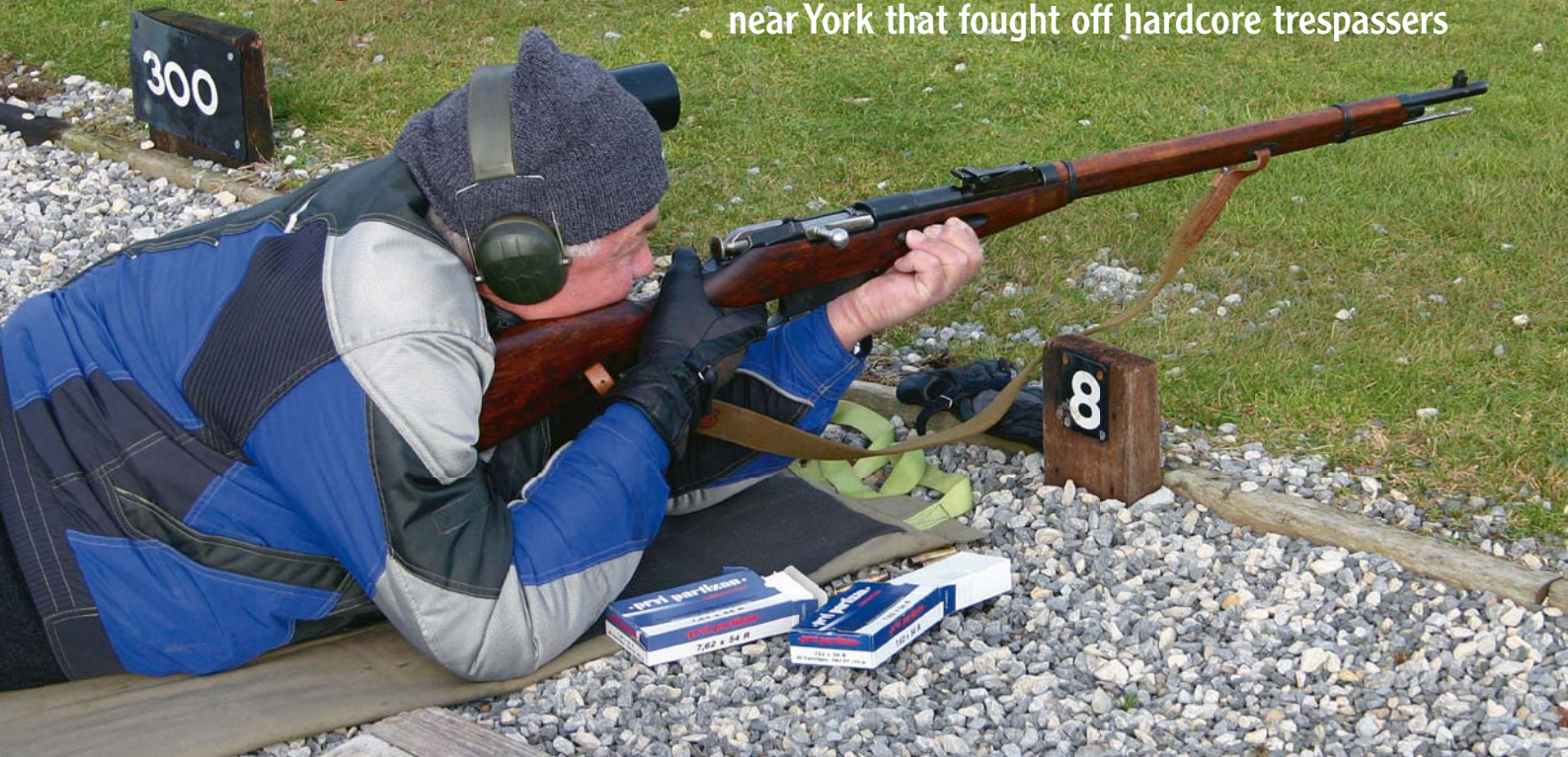
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The Battle

of Strensall

Laurie Holland details the history of a range near York that fought off hardcore trespassers



Well equipped: A firing point at one of Strensall's six long-distance ranges

The National Shooting Centre at Bisley is the spiritual home of British fullbore rifle shooting, famous worldwide, but there are many North Britons who have never visited it. They associate their sport with one or more of a group privately owned and military ranges from Yorkshire and Lancashire to the Scottish Highlands.

One of these is Strensall Ranges. Its location, just seven miles from York city centre, makes it convenient for a good many shooters – but has also contributed to the range's problems, with trespassers claiming a right to wander freely around the area. This led to major difficulties in operating the ranges, and even complete closure for some months during 2007.

The ancient village of Strensall is mentioned in the Domesday Book, and the range is part of the army's Strensall Camp founded in 1884. The MoD

property occupies, depending on which source is consulted, something between 1,400 and 1,900 acres of lowland heath land. Until around 10 years ago, it housed a battalion of The Prince of Wales' Own Regiment of Yorkshire alongside a transport maintenance depot and medical facility. Today, 34 Field Hospital is the only unit permanently stationed on the base.

Two thirds of the area is taken up by an outdoor training area of heath land with scattered copses, the remainder by the ranges. Unlike many near-redundant military facilities, closed or mothballed and left to decay, Strensall Camp has been maintained as it offers an all-in training package for visiting units – accommodation and catering, training rooms, parade grounds, obstacle courses, a large outdoor exercise area and rifle ranges including an excellent 30-metre sighting-in range.

Ranges

The ranges lie next to the east boundary fence of the barracks. Visitor access is not through the barracks, but down a private road on the northern outskirts of the village that leads to the range offices, stores and main car park. On one side of the car park, there is a 30-metre range; on the other, the longer-distance ranges designated 'A' to 'F', lying parallel and facing east-north-east. All offer 100- to 600-yard distances, subject to occupancy and the 200 mil rule.

'A' is flanked by trees ahead of the 300-yard firing point, otherwise both shooters and bullets in flight are exposed to the elements on a flat site. Firing points become higher as you move back to see over those in front, so some 500- and 600-yard points are substantially elevated. Shooters and their rifles are very exposed to some wind conditions, so holding the rifle steady is sometimes a greater concern than judging bullet deflection.

Prevailing winds vary according to the season, but a west or southwesterly condition (five o'clock) is common. In the summer, light, fishtailing winds are common, and mirage is often the best or only way of reading them. The start of shooting is regularly delayed in some seasons as shooters wait for overnight ground mist to burn off or for a breeze to get up.

An unusual feature is the range's narrow gauge railway, around a mile of single track. Rolling stock consists of a small fleet of manually propelled four-wheel flat cars or 'range trolleys'. They are used to transfer target frames, field telephones and the other necessary paraphernalia from the storage area alongside the main car park to the range butts. Each range has its own siding off the 'main line', and it's vital for users to remember to take a



The author, Laurie Holland

For more than 100 years, common sense and boundary warning notices kept the public out when red flags were displayed

points bar alongside the more commonly found gear to gain access and then reset the points to the 'normal' position.

Ken Firth, the regional NRA representative, liaises with Landmarc Support Services and the Yorkshire Rifle Association (YRA), agreeing civilian shooting bookings on a six-monthly cycle. The YRA co-ordinates range use for half a dozen regional rifle clubs, and also runs a number of 'open' competitions under its own auspices each year. The target is two civilian weekend bookings each month, only rarely achieved in recent years. While the ranges are heavily used on weekdays, they rely on TAVR and cadet unit bookings at the weekend – their requirements have dropped substantially, often to one or two unit bookings on a Saturday or Sunday. If they cancel late in the day, civilian shooting is lost.

The battle

The army has always tried to maintain good relations with the local community over access to the open parts of the camp. With the land designated a 'common', many people wrongly believe they have a legal right of entry, and it's a popular walking area. Public access to the training area is available virtually continuously, but some residents have long carped

Local importance: Some half a dozen regional shooting clubs make use of Strensall Ranges as a regular venue





Long lasting: Strensall's 125-year history makes it a major force among the northern ranges

about being barred from the ranges, even though the authorities have tried to facilitate this within reason.

To add to the complications, the entire area is an SSSI due to its unspoiled natural flora and hosts a large and varied wildlife population. Landmark is only allowed to sow and mow range lanes, and everything else is 'beneficially managed' in conjunction with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

The ranges and their danger area had never been fenced off from the training area. For more than 100 years, common sense and boundary warning notices every 50 metres kept the public out when red flags were displayed. This changed in early 2007 when it was found that trespass was taking place on unofficial footpaths in the range safety area behind the butts while shooting was underway.

Units using the ranges then had to supply sentries to a number of remote sites around the danger area to look out for trespassers, much to the resentment of visiting unit commanders. A number of confrontations took place between sentries and 'hardcore' trespassers, primarily a small group of dog walkers drawn from the many north York dormitory villages. The Royal Military Police visited and provided 'friendly advice' to identified individuals, and believed the problems were resolved. The trespassers saw it otherwise, claiming threatening behaviour and harassment by the RMP.

They claimed that their behaviour was completely safe. In their view, walking a few hundred yards behind the backstops removed all risks of death or injury –

they thought the army was raising 'manufactured' safety concerns in order to unreasonably deny them access. TA units soon avoided the ranges and cadets or civilians weren't allowed to stand sentry, so weekend shooting died while this situation prevailed.

The 'protesters' had little or no local support. They were condemned by the local MP and councillors, and many critical letters were published in the *York Press* newspaper and its online comment facility. A common view was: 'Let them trespass, it's their own fault if they're killed.' An apparent ringleader, one Peter Coates of Haxby, promised continued defiance. When asked by a journalist to comment on a report that the army was examining fencing the ranges off, his response was "Over my dead body."

But Mr Coates was not to get his way. It turned out that when the War Office had bought the land and built the camp in the 1880s, an Act of Parliament had removed its 'common' status, making public access by consent only.

Things became so bad by late July 2007 that a decision was taken to close the ranges down completely until the fencing was installed. North-East units undertaking final preparations for deployment on active service in Afghanistan were diverted to the much more distant Altcar Ranges, and the camp was denuded of a key element of its combined facilities. They eventually reopened in late autumn and public access is now permanently denied, the leader of the local Parish Council publicly blaming this on a selfish minority who spoiled things for the majority of residents.

Nevertheless, it shows how easily even government-owned ranges can be disrupted or closed by the actions of a tiny number of stubborn individuals – fewer than 10 in this instance. As is so often the case in property and trespass matters, the law turned out to be toothless. The maximum fine, set in Victorian times at £10, is still in force today. ■



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Season

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Gallery rifle: An introduction

The Gallery Rifle (GR) disciplines cover events shot at short and medium distances by various rifles and pistols. Many of the events are classified so competitors shoot against others of similar ability. Open meetings are held at the National Shooting Centre, Bisley (NSC) and at club ranges around the country. Competitors can take part at all levels from club to international.

The GR community is a friendly one and competitors of all levels of skill and experience are equally welcome. Never fall into the trap of thinking 'I'm not good enough to shoot at Bisley' – it's there for everyone to come and join in and enjoy.

The firearms

Gallery Rifle Small Bore (GRSB) – Most competitors use a semi automatic .22 rifle. In some events it is possible to use pump action or single shot rifles.

Gallery Rifle Centre Fire (GRCF) – Most use a lever action rifle in a pistol calibre e.g. .38/.357 or .44. There are also other rifles which use different designs.

Long Barrelled Pistol (LBP) – These are mostly semi automatic pistols in .22 with an overall minimum length of 60cm. Single shot pistols and revolvers can be used in some events.

Long Barrelled Revolver (LBR) – Revolvers in a variety of calibres, commonly .38/.357 or .44, with an overall minimum length of 60cm are used.

The events

Most events are shot at distances between 10 and 50 metres, with a few going out to 300 yards. There is a large selection which only requires a range of 25 metres.

The most common position is standing but some events call for shooting kneeling, sitting or with the weak shoulder or hand. Some are deliberate precision events while some require the competitor to shoot and reload quite quickly. The targets can be stationary or turning at set intervals or even moving.

Open meetings

Many clubs in the UK have a GR&P section and put on club competitions. Some of them also host open meetings at which competitors from all over the country come to gain valuable experience in shooting at different venues.

There are four open meetings at the NSC. These include the Phoenix Meeting in late May and the National Championships at the end of August. The Phoenix Meeting is the premier meeting in the year. It attracts over 500 competitors and has a very wide range of events on offer. The National Championships Meeting is a little smaller but also has the GR Home Countries National Match for teams from England, Scotland and Wales.

In addition to the four open meetings there are also GR sections of the Imperial and Trafalgar Meeting. These events differ from the open meeting as they are primarily intended for period firearms, or spirit of the original reproductions. Some would say that the predominant use of iron sights makes this style of GR the most challenging.

National and international

England, Scotland and Wales have GR teams. Squads are selected at the end of each year for the next year, based on performance in the year.

The UK national team is chosen annually in a similar way and represents the country in Europe and beyond.

Alan Whittle celebrates the end of the gallery rifle season with a visit to the Trafalgar and Autumn Action weekend meetings at Bisley

The British GR season concludes in October with two events at Bisley on consecutive weekends featuring short-range competitions. The Trafalgar Historic Arms Match (22-23 October) includes over a dozen competitions for original and spirit of the original reproduction firearms chambered in both centrefire and rimfire categories. The second meeting is the Autumn Action Weekend or AAW (29-30 October), which is the last in a series of four events held each year at Bisley in which GR is the principal discipline.

The Trafalgar was well attended, with many overseas visitors also making the trip, and the ranges had a busy feel to them without being crowded. I am sure this event, now in its 25th year, will keep going from strength to strength.

The Trafalgar is reported on elsewhere in the Journal, and in any case it was the AAW that provided the more memorable results this year – particularly James Harris and Morné van Dalen's new British records in LBP Multi-Target and Phoenix A long-barrelled revolver respectively.

The AAW follows a relatively standard format of 10 or so core gallery rifle events in four classes: standard, classic, open and small-bore rifle plus two classes for long barrelled revolvers and pistols. The core competitions are supplemented by specialist events for long barrelled revolvers and pistols and target shotgun.

It was consistency that won James Harris (Grid number 1475) his record with the long-barrelled pistol. With two 29s in the first two practices, he was already out in the lead – and then two 30 'possibles', including nine shots into the central, secured him a stunning 118.14X. As a measure of his dominance,





he was no fewer than 10 points clear of his nearest competitor, Steve Lamb.

Morné van Dalen (Grid number 1773) was a familiar face over the weekend, having entered no fewer than 18 events. His record-breaking score followed a trajectory of improvement rather than consistency (although he didn't exactly start off badly) – his scorecard read 45, 48, 49, 50, making for a final score of 192.20X.

There were also several recognisable names among the winners. Chris West took top honours in the McQueen to crown a fruitful weekend in which he won the Timed & Precision 1 centrefire and the Bianchi centrefire events, as well as the 200-metre competition for any full-bore rifle. Meanwhile, Steve Lamb took a host of honours including the 25-metre precision long-barrelled revolver, the America match with long-barrelled revolver, the Timed & Precision 1 Open with centrefire rifles and the Multi-Target Open centrefire rifle event.

For the full results, visit www.galleryrifle.com. ■



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Pistol Politics

Jack Lopresti MP visits Yate Pistol and Rifle Club to discover more about target shooting and get a lesson on the range

When many MPs want little to do with rifles and pistols, it's a pleasure to discover one who does take a genuine interest in shooting. So when Andrew Sheriff discovered a sympathetic ear in the form of Jack Lopresti, Conservative MP for Filton and Bradley Stoke in Bristol, he was quick to invite the TA member to one of Yate Pistol and Rifle Club's guest days.

Yate Pistol and Rifle club was established in 1969, when its first members leased a quarry near Yate, South Gloucestershire, to build a range with 25- and 50-metre firing points. In those days the club primarily catered for pistol shooters, and activities included practical pistol and the 1500 competition. Today, its 60 annual members and 20 long-standing pensioner members use a selection of gallery rifles and muzzle-loading pistols.

Sunday 24 July saw the politician visit the club, along with his youngest son Michael, who is also familiar with firearms through his training with the Patchway detachment of the army cadets. After

meeting various of the club's committee members, they went out to the range, trying out a variety of firearms from a Ruger 10/22 to a Pietta .44 muzzle-loading revolver. Jack's particular favourite was a Martini Henry .577/.45 rifle.

Towards the end of the morning, Andrew showed Jack his pride and joy: his Alfa .38/357 long-barrelled revolver and SAM .22 single-shot longarm pistol. Though Andrew would have liked the pair to have a go with these too, the law means that he cannot lend them to anyone else – including his fellow club members. As he explained, this is because Home Office Approved Clubs are defined as 'Rifle and Muzzle Loading Pistol Clubs', not 'Rifle and Pistol Clubs'. Intrigued, Jack said he would look into the complexities of the law and help clarify the situation.

As a result of the visit, Jack Lopresti invited the club members to visit the House of Commons, and the MP has also offered to give Yate Pistol and Rifle Club any help he can in resisting further restrictions being placed on shooting sports. ■

Political party: Shooters introduce the MP to a range of rifles at Yate's scenic shooting range



THE LOWDOWN

- Yate Pistol and Rifle Club is in Yate, Gloucestershire.
- Members join by invitation, usually recommended by existing members.
- Most shooting takes place on Sunday mornings but the range can be used on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Bank Holiday Mondays as well.
- It is a friendly club. Competitions take place on the first Sunday of the month throughout the summer, all with a particular Yate flavour. They include a black powder pistol shoot, a pendulum shoot and a snooker shoot, plus more usual clay shoots and air rifle field target shoots.

For further information, contact club secretary David Morris on 01179 292662



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Classic competition

Trafalgar Meeting Match Director Chris Farr reports on the results and atmosphere from the 25th Meeting in the event's history

The Trafalgar has been running for many years, but it was my first as meeting director. I have learnt a lot about it in a short time with the help and support of the 'regulars', for which I am grateful. In case you don't know much about it, a brief bit of background first:

The Trafalgar is the premier event at the National Shooting Centre for those who enjoy competing with firearms that are generally grouped together under the discipline title of Historic and Classics. It attracts not only collectors and enthusiasts, but also those who have the odd older gun in their cabinet and like to give it an outing at the home of shooting. Competitors come from all parts of the country and from abroad, and many of them give up their time to join in with the small army of volunteers who make it all possible.

There are nearly 200 events and aggregates at distances from 10 yards to 1,000 yards for every conceivable type of firearm – enough to satisfy the owners of almost anything from a muzzle-loading pocket pistol to a double rifle more at home on the plains of Africa.

This year there were over 250 competitors who made up a total event entry list of 1,250. Even in these difficult times, people managed to find the resources to enjoy their sport, and the numbers were comparable with last year.

There were several excellent results, with quite a few competitors winning more than one event. Two of them, Frank Heymel (BDMP) and Joel Meyers (BDMP), won six events each, while Steven Voak came top in seven.

There is a large list of trophies that have been donated over the years, and this year another was added. Alan Warner has given a framed pistol target, which is about 100 years old and was originally used by army officers for practice at 15 yards. Interestingly, the reverse of the target has a German soldier wearing the traditional 'pickelhaube'.

Every year, one of the winners is awarded the

premier trophy: a framed facsimile of the Trafalgar Letter. This is a holograph letter written by Admiral Lord Nelson from HMS Victory only a few weeks before the battle of Trafalgar while on his way to Cape St Vincent. In it he says he will do his best to realise the expectation of his friends and to take as his motto, or at least his watch word, 'Touch and Take'. The rest, as they say, is history.

This year's winner was another BDMP member, Dietmar Hönersch, who is known to many of us as a staunch supporter of international shooting. A worthy winner indeed.

Do come along next year if you haven't been before. It's a very enjoyable weekend with lots of friendly people enjoying themselves in the autumn sunshine. Well, it was sunny this year at least. ■



On the range: A gallery rifle shooter takes part in one of the Trafalgar's multitude of events



Photos courtesy of Frome and District Pistol Club

BIGGER THAN EVER

Benchrest shooting is growing – and so is the World Benchrest Championships. Vince Bottomley reports from Volmerange-les-Mines, France



**True accuracy:
Benchrest shooting
allows for some
phenomenal groups**

Benchrest shooting was born in the USA at Johnstown in 1947, but it would be over 40 years before the first World Benchrest Championship was held in Fejus, France, in 1991. It has been held every two years since, making this year the 20th anniversary of the world championships. It is fitting that it returns to France.

Competitions are shot at 100 and 200 metres (or yards, depending on the host nation) with the two rifle weights, making four separate competitions in total. With a total of 20 matches over the course of the championship, awards are given for the Light Varmint aggregate and the Heavy Varmint aggregate. The Two Gun aggregate then decides the overall winner, to be crowned world champion.

The championship is growing – this year, no fewer than 160 shooters took part from 21 different countries. This year's championships took place in the tiny village of Volmerange-les-Mines on the Luxembourg border, where you'll find a shooting range like no other. It consists of a series of vast

concrete boxes – some open-topped and baffled, some roofed in, catering for every discipline from air pistol to benchrest.

I suspect that most shooters – certainly the Americans – had never seen anything like this concrete box range, although we Brits had shot at a similar venue in Spain five years ago at the European Benchrest Championships. It was well protected from the weather and facilities like the loading area, toilets, canteen and parking were first class, but how do you read a wind entering the range vertically via the baffled roof?

Growing numbers mean that there are fewer and fewer European benchrest ranges able to cope with 160 shooters. The French range had 28 benches but even then, the pace was relentless, with 36 relays per day. Shooting started at 8am and didn't finish until after 6pm. Wind-flags must then be moved for the following day – bench positions are rotated to ensure fairness. Most days, we didn't leave the range before 8pm.



Each participating country could enter a maximum of three four-man teams and the big benchrest nations – America, Australia, France, Sweden, Finland, Italy and Germany – all had a full complement of three teams. We had two teams this year, while some countries had only one; in countries like the UK, it's often a matter of who can afford to go. Those of you who have shot in overseas events will know the cost, but on this trip I spent around £1,375 altogether. Team GB's clothing was supplied by the UKBRA (United Kingdom Benchrest Association) while Russell Simmonds from Precision Reloading Services (www.precisionreloading.com) donated the superb Bore Tech cleaning fluids, which kept our rifles clean and copper-free throughout the competition.

The American Team have won every World championship since 1989 – except the last one in South Africa, where the Aussies inflicted a shock defeat. The pressure was on USA to take back the crown. The three USA teams were populated with the 'greats' of benchrest: undisputed king Tony Boyer, former world champion Mike Ratigan, current world champion Gene Bukys, Jack Neary, Larry Da Costa and Wayne Campbell, another former world champion. And the Aussies were without two of their top shooters, Annie and Stuart Elliot, absent for the first time in many years.

The conditions were a real challenge, including 30 degree temperatures, rapidly fishtailing winds from every direction and a snap torrential rain-storm, but there was some remarkable shooting nonetheless. In the end, all went to plan and two of the three American teams stood on the podium to receive the gold and silver medals. A plucky Italian team took the bronze, pushing the Australians down to fourth place, while the third USA team could finish no better than seventh.

Although Team GB ended placing 19th out of 36, we were only beaten by one team that was not from a great benchrest nation: Belgium. Like us, the Belgians lack a 200-yard practice range and 10th place was a magnificent result for them. And we did manage to beat Spain, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Austria and Russia.

So, how did we Brits fare in the individual results? With 12 American shooters and a similar number of Aussies, plus very capable French, German, Italian, Canadian and Scandinavian shooters, you can see that a top-twenty finish is something quite special.

While America's Gene Bukys took the title of World Benchrest Champion for this year, there were some great results all round – and several new records were established at WBC 11. The most impressive for me was French shooter Carlos Pacheco's five-shot



The American Team have won every World championship since 1989 – except the last one in South Africa, where the Aussies inflicted a shock defeat

group at 200 metres measuring an incredible 2.27 millimetres (or 0.08 MOA).

At the end of the four days of the championship, there is a 200-metre fun shoot. Bill Mitchell (Canada) won this year, but the Brits did rather well: Martin Miles and Tom Morris took ninth and 10th respectively.

This was our best ever championship. However, championships are won and lost in the more difficult 200-metre matches and in the UK, we just don't have a 200-yard benchrest range, so we can't practise. There are excellent 100-yard benchrest ranges at Diggle and Minsterley but we desperately need a 200-yard range.

Benchrest is a true international discipline and I appeal to the National Rifle Association to embrace benchrest as the rest of the world does and build us a 200-yard range on Short Siberia. Eight benches will do to start with – concrete and building blocks are cheap. You will find that it will also be popular with plinkers and shooters wanting to test their rifles and develop loads. Build it and they will come. ■

Global gathering:
The Worlds saw stiff competition with no fewer than 21 participant countries

COMPETITION	OVERALL WINNER	BEST GB SHOOTER (place)
100m Light Varmint	Vera Carter (Canada)	Kevin Phipps (31)
100m Heavy Varmint	Jack Neary (USA)	Vince Bottomley (38)
200m Light Varmint	Mike Ratigan (USA)	Martin Miles (9) Steve Newman (10)
200m Heavy Varmint	Tony Boyer (USA)	Vince Bottomley (11)
Light Varmint Grand Aggregate	Mike Ratigan (USA)	Steve Newman (33)
Heavy Varmint Grand Aggregate	Gene Bukys (USA)	Vince Bottomley (15)
Two Gun Grand Aggregate	Gene Bukys (USA)	Vince Bottomley (16)

For the full results, visit www.ftfir.org

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Down *range*

The .22 Long Rifle cartridge can prove an interesting alternative in long-range target shooting, says Richard Kenchington

I have continued experimenting with the long-range performance of the .22LR cartridge. We have fired scoring strings at up to 300 yards, obtained further data on elevations, assessed the need for barrel cleanliness and even quantified lateral drift – and had a lot of fun in the process.

Distances

Three shooters spent the afternoon on range 19 at Bisley, intending to shoot at 200, 300 and 400 yards. By halfway through the first shoot at 300 yards, however, I had fired more than 50 shots – cleaning the rifle at that point would probably have tightened up the group. We were all at or above the elevation limits on our sights, though, making it difficult to find the time to connect with the target at 400 yards.

I would suggest that 300 yards is close to the practical limit for regular competitive shooting. Let's assume that 25 yards is equivalent to 100 yards with

the big rifle; so 200 yards is like 800, 250 like 1,000 and 300 like 1,200 yards.

Ammunition

Good quality ammunition – of consistent shape, weight and velocity – is most important for accuracy. You can't handload .22LR ammunition, so the consistency of the powder charge must be deduced from performance testing. Weighing each round of a batch can help. The best performing brands (RWS R50 and R100, Lapua X-Act and Midas, Eley Tenex and Match) exhibit little variation from round to round.

The best in this respect is the Lapua X-Act, of which a whole box of 50 weighed exactly the same to within 0.1 grains; R50, Midas and Tenex were within 0.2 grains. This cannot be said for cheaper brands – in my Eley Club ammo, weight variation was around 0.6 grains (about half the combined charge of powder and primer).



Special case: Factory load testing is crucial as the .22 case cannot withstand multiple firings

Long way: Bisley's Century and Stickledown ranges could host more .22 events in future

Fouling and cleaning

Dirty barrels increase variations in velocity as the fouling is blown out and builds up again. At greater distances, the point of impact on the target becomes more sensitive to the muzzle velocity, and a clean barrel is imperative to ensure velocity is kept constant. Accuracy at long range (150 yards or more) may be impaired after 40 or 50 shots; cleaning the barrel at that point is certainly a good idea.

Drift

It is commonly accepted that the drift of a 7.62mm bullet at 1,000 yards is about 1MOA. Suppose a 190-grain 7.62mm bullet is fired from a 10in twist barrel at 2,725fps – the angular velocity of the bullet ($2,725 \times 12 / 10 \times 60$) is 196,200rpm. Contrast that with a 40-grain .22 bullet fired from the usual 16in twist barrel at 1,080fps – the angular velocity is only 48,600rpm, about 25 per cent that of the 7.62mm bullet. But the .22 is less than 25 per cent of the weight of the 7.62mm bullet, and if the drift force is proportional to the angular velocity then the sideways acceleration (rpm over weight) is 1,215 (in arbitrary units) for the .22 bullet and 1,033 for the 7.62mm bullet.

The distance travelled sideways is proportional to the square of the time of flight ($s = ut + 0.5 f \times t^2$). If $u = 0$ (no initial sideways velocity), this simplifies to $s = 0.5 f \times t^2$. The factor 0.5 can then be dispensed with as we are working in arbitrary units. Using the ballistic tables, at 1,000 yards, the time of flight of



the 7.62mm bullet is 1.591 seconds and $f \times t^2 = 1,033 \times 1.591^2 = 2,615$. For the .22 bullet at 250 yards, the time of flight is 0.806 seconds and $f \times t^2 = 1,215 \times 0.806^2 = 789$. To convert these deflections to MOA we must divide by the distance, so at 1,000 yards, $2,615 / 1000 = 2.615$, while at 250 yards, $789 / 250 = 3.156$. Finally, the figure 2.615 represents 1MOA at 1,000 yards and the 3.156 for the .22 bullet represents $3.156 / 2.615 = 1.21$ MOA at 250 yards.

Existing and future competitions

Dave Brigden's article in the Summer Journal confirmed that a number of others are already enjoying long range .22LR shooting. Surrey County Smallbore RA runs a 200-yard championship and a competition for teams in May. In September, the 32nd/61st Surrey Home Guard R&PC hold a 300 yards championship shoot on Century, while further north the Peak District RA still runs the Turbutt competition at 200, 300 and 500 yards.

There are two avenues I would like to see explored. First, we must find suitable sites for new ranges or reopen closed ranges. I imagine a comprehensive list of every rifle range there has ever been in the UK must exist somewhere within the NRA. I would happily volunteer to conduct this research if the NRA agrees – Chief Executive, please note.

The second avenue is the expansion of long-range .22LR activity at Bisley. Judging by the response to my previous article and the information provided by Dave Brigden, I believe demand already exists; those clubs willing to arrange sessions at 200, 300 or 400 yards should make their plans known well in advance to ensure an encouraging number of entries.

Suggested target dimensions

Short-range Bisley targets are too tight for long-range .22LR. The target dimensions need to be proportional to the Bisley long-range target – nearer to full 2MOA bullseyes, 4MOA inners and so on, taking into account the bullet diameter for distances less than 200 yards. ■

DIAMETERS IN INCHES								
Ring	50 yds	100 yds	150 yds	200 yds	250 yds	300 yds	350 yds	400 yds
V	0.3	0.9	1.6	2.4	3.0	3.6	4.2	4.8
5	0.6	1.5	2.7	4.0	5.0	6.0	7.0	8.0
4	1.4	3.0	5.4	8.0	10.0	12.0	14.0	16.0
3	2.2	4.5	8.1	12.0	15.0	18.0	21.0	24.0
2	3.0	6.0	10.8	16.0	20.0	24.0	28.0	32.0
1	3.8	7.5	13.5	20.0	25.0	30.0	35.0	40.0

PRACTICAL ELEVATION TABLE		
Distance (yards)	Standard velocity ammunition	High velocity ammunition (RWS R100)
	Minutes	Minutes
50	8.0	7.5
100	16.0	15.0
150	25.5	24.0
200	36.5	34.5
250	49.0	46.5
300	63.0	60.0
400	*95.5	*91.5
500	*120.0	*115.0

* Elevations at 400 and 500 yards have not yet been checked in practice. Standard velocity ammunition has a muzzle velocity of 1,080fps. RWS R100 has a higher muzzle velocity of 1,130fps and requires perceptibly less elevation as distance increases. Jump must be allowed for when determining the elevation setting for individual rifles.



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Pristine Care

Cleaning your rifle helps to improve accuracy and improves its longevity, but it's not easy if you don't know how. Paul Grannell of Sentry Trading explains his method

Rifle cleaning can certainly cause discussion; ask one shooter's opinion and he will say he never cleans his rifle and it shoots as well as it did when it came out of the box. At the other end of the spectrum will be the specialised target shooter who will clean his rifle after every shot. Most shooters' opinions will lie somewhere in the middle.

Ignoring the accidental ingress of mud and debris, the requirement for rifle cleaning arises due to two main factors. Firstly, after the first shot, powder fouling begins to build up, the rate of build up will depend on many factors including calibre and type of load.

Secondly, a build-up of copper will occur, having transferred from the copper jacket of the bullet – the rate of which being dependent on factors such as the condition of the rifling and bullet quality. In our experience, most shooters will clean their rifle somewhere between every 10 and 100 rounds fired.

Stories of loss of accuracy after a thorough cleaning are common. However, we have found that this can usually be attributed to a poorly made or worn barrel, where the build-up of copper is compensating for some deficiency.

There is no 'correct' way to clean a rifle, but there are certainly a number of bad practices that can cause damage. We have developed a simple guide that, in our opinion, will enable the safe cleaning of a rifle, optimising its accuracy and longevity.

Good quality and good condition cleaning tools and materials are essential, our guide refers to Pro-Shot products from the USA, we import and distribute them in the UK and in our opinion are unbeatable. However, the guide is equally applicable to other brands of cleaning tools and materials.

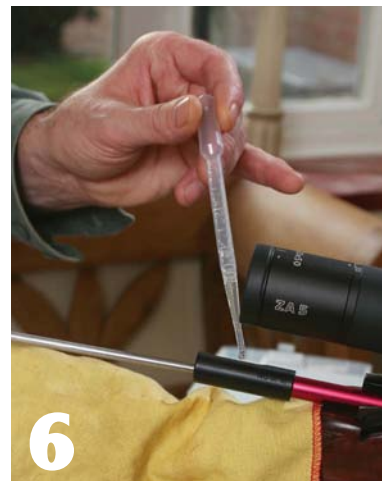
We favour the use of nylon brushes over bronze for most bore cleaning tasks; they allow solvents to be thoroughly agitated and able to do their work without the unnecessary abrasion bronze brushes can cause.

20 STEPS TO IMPROVED ACCURACY, LONGEVITY AND RELIABILITY



Cleaning rifle bore, chamber and bolt lug recesses:

1. Check rifle is 'clear' and remove bolt if fitted.
2. Place rifle in a secure stand, cover scope lenses with caps or similar.
3. Place a protective cloth over stock and a bag or box under the muzzle to catch dirty patches.
4. Insert a bore-guide with the solvent port facing up, and lock into position.
5. (If barrel is not badly fouled this step can be omitted). Use a correctly sized bronze brush and push through bore once from breech end (remove brush from muzzle end before withdrawing rod), you may precede this step by pushing through a patch soaked with 1-step fluid from the breech end to





8

soften fouling (using a patch holder fitted to the rod).

6. Wipe rod, fit a correctly sized nylon brush onto the cleaning rod and insert into the bore-guide up to the solvent port. Using a pipette or dropper bottle, squirt a ml or two of Copper solvent IV onto the brush.

7. Agitate the brush back and forth in the bore for several long strokes. Leave for a minute, wipe rod and repeat agitation (a few more drops of solvent may be added via the solvent port).

8. Wipe rod, fit a correctly sized jag, and push patches repeatedly through bore from breech end, until patches are emerging clean. Wipe crown clean with a fresh patch.

9. Repeat steps 6-7, using short back and forth movements, working up and down the bore.

10. Repeat step 8.

11. Remove bore-guide, and using dental roll adaptor rod and 'dental roll', clean the bolt lug recesses with a gently rotating motion. If badly soiled, two or more 'dental rolls' may be required. Using a back and forth motion, clean the bolt guide rails.

12. Using a chamber brush holder, fit an appropriately sized bronze brush and wrap with a clean patch (a larger patch is normally preferable for this). Using a gentle back-and-forth-twisting motion, clean the chamber.



17



10



12

The rifle bore, chamber and bolt lug recesses are now perfectly clean. The next

steps will offer some additional corrosion resistance, and with repeated use will ease future fouling removal:

13. Using a patch holder, push a patch wetted with 1-step cleaner and lubricant down the bore from the breech end.

14. Fit a correctly sized jag, and push patches repeatedly through bore from breech end, until patches are emerging clean. Wipe crown clean with a fresh patch.

15. Remove the bore-guide and repeat step 12.

Cleaning the bolt

16. Using a nylon brush, clean debris and fouling from the bolt face and recesses along its length.

17. Lubricate the back face (the face nearest the bolt handle) of the bolt locking lugs and cocking cam, with a small amount of pro-gold grease.

18. Lubricate the body of the bolt with a few drops of zero-friction lubricant, wiped evenly across the surfaces with a clean patch. The surface should not be visibly 'wet'.

Rifle exterior

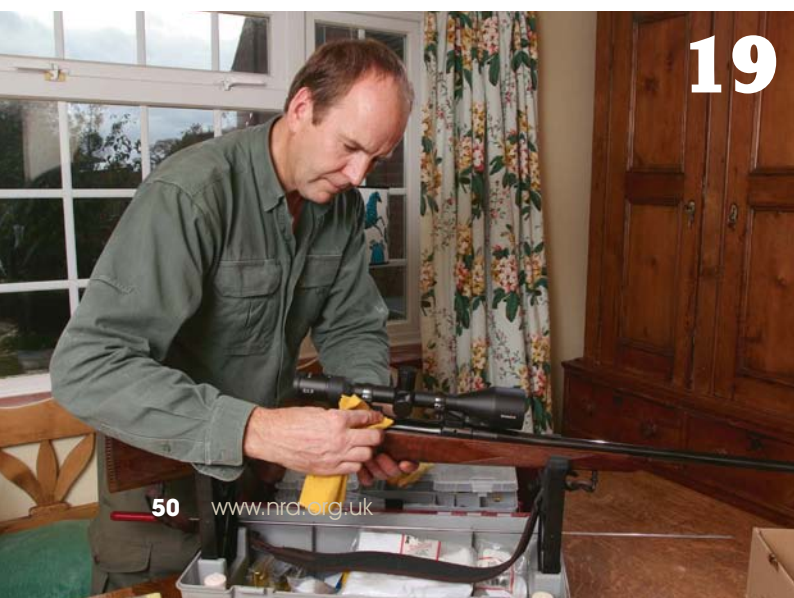
19. Using a silicone cloth, wipe all exterior metal surfaces, polishing off with a clean cotton flannel cloth. DO NOT TOUCH SCOPE LENSES.

20. Wipe all oiled wooden surfaces with a clean cotton flannel cloth. For varnished woodwork, wipe surfaces with a silicone cloth and polish with a clean cotton flannel cloth. DO NOT TOUCH SCOPE LENSES.

Happy cleaning! ■



20

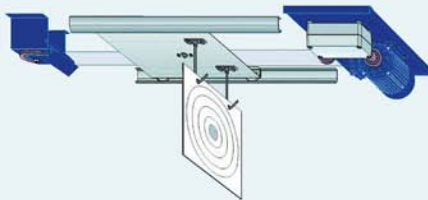
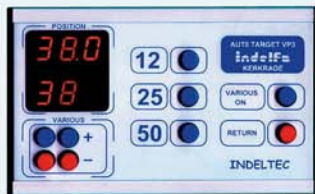


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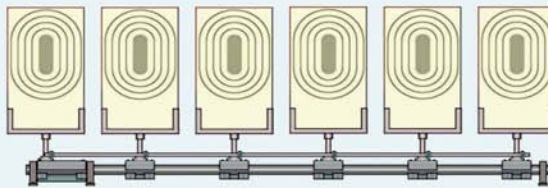


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Going Ballistic

Struggling to get your head round ballistic software? Chris Parkin offers an introduction to these handy gadgets – but are they tools, or toys?

As any serious target shooter will know, an accurately recorded and well-maintained range log is indispensable when it comes to setting your sights.

In this day and age we are also seeing a wide range of new electronic toys that are, if not replacing, certainly aiding ballistic calculations. An understanding of how atmospheric conditions affect trajectory at a theoretical level is fascinating, but no amount of calculated data can replace practice and understanding of how all these factors affect a bullet in flight. But are these 'toys' getting anyone any closer to a converted first sighter?

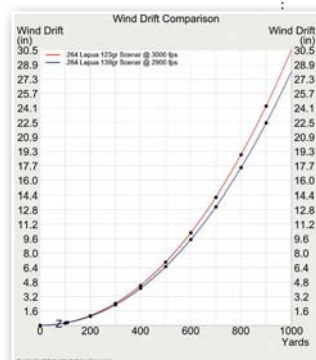
Over the last 12 months I have reviewed and tested four different electronic ballistic calculators in detail. Each offers a unique skill set and suitability to different realms of our sport. All these systems allow you to input key variables in your shooting setup – ammunition and rifle specifications – and specify the output units you require: minutes of angle or similar. For simplicity, here I will present just an overview of what I found.

Known as External Ballistic Calculators, these

gadgets are descended from the simple fixed value data books of the past – but these modern bits of tech will put even the most complicated ballistic calculations at your fingertips.

The most straightforward and easily available system now is an internet-based calculator, such as JBM Ballistics. This is a free website which will process your unique load and equipment data. It will also allow you to alter any variable, to see how the theoretical trajectory figures alter. Target Rifle has long been settled at one bullet weight but in the current climate of F/TR, every shooter at some point must have pondered whether the 155s going fast or the 190s going slow are better to beat the wind, or what is the necessary muzzle velocity to maintain stable supersonic flight all the way to 1,200 yards.

Programs such as these allow objective mathematical facts to be honestly compared, before you run into subjective factors such as your personal threshold for recoil. Data for any discipline can be converted into tables and charts and kept in the log for your records. If you take the time to



JBM Ballistics' graphical functions allow you to make easy comparisons of different loads

The online option lets you produce easy-to-use tables, and you can enter vast numbers of variables

Manufacturer:	Remington-Union	A-Max:	200.0 gr
Caliber:	5.56 x 45 mm		
Ballistic Coefficient:	0.500		
Muzzle Velocity:	2845.0 ft/s	Distance to Zero:	0.0 ft
Sight Height:	2.00 in	Zero Offset:	0.00 in
Zero Height:	0.00 in	Zero Offset:	0.00 in
Windage:	0.000 MOA	Elevation:	0.000 MOA
Line of Sight Angle:	0.0 deg	Cast Angle:	0.0 deg
Wind Speed:	10.0 mph	Wind Angle:	0.0 deg
Target Speed:	0.0 mph	Target Angle:	0.0 deg
Target Height:	0.0 in		
Temperature:	10.0 °C	Pressure:	29.92 in Hg
Humidity:	0.0 %	Altitude:	0.0 ft
Vital Zone Radius:	0.0 in		
Std. Atmosphere at Altitude:	No Pressure is Connected:	Yes	
Zero at Max. Point Blank Range:	No Target Relative Drop:	Yes	
Mark Sound Barrier Crossing:	Yes Include Extra Rows:	No	
Columns 1 Units:	1.00 in Columns 2 Units:	No	1.00 MOA
Round Output to Whole Numbers:			
	Output Data:	0.000 MOA	
Elevation:	0.000 MOA	Windage:	0.000 MOA
Atmospheric Density:	0.000	Speed of Sound:	1105.7 ft/s
Maximum PE:	300 yd	Maximum PE:	300 yd
Range of Maximum Height:	120 yd	Energy at Maximum PE:	3026.6 ft-lb
Sectional Density:	0.312 lb/in ³		

Range (yd)	Drop (in)	Windage (in)	Max Velocity (ft/s)	Max Energy (ft-lb)	Time (s)	Loss (in)
0	0.0	0.0	2845.0	2877.0	0.000	0.0
100	0.0	0.0	2845.0	2877.0	0.000	0.0
200	-0.7	-1.3	2845.0	2877.0	0.000	0.0
300	-0.7	-1.3	2845.0	2877.0	0.000	0.0
400	-0.7	-1.3	2845.0	2877.0	0.000	0.0
500	-0.7	-1.3	2845.0	2877.0	0.000	0.0
600	-0.7	-1.3	2845.0	2877.0	0.000	0.0
700	-0.7	-1.3	2845.0	2877.0	0.000	0.0
800	-0.7	-1.3	2845.0	2877.0	0.000	0.0
900	-0.7	-1.3	2845.0	2877.0	0.000	0.0
1000	-0.7	-1.3	2845.0	2877.0	0.000	0.0

There's a ballistics tool to suit every target shooter



laminated the results, they will also provide a handy tabulated readout to dial for any desired range, come wind, rain or shine.

Basic computer software has its limits, though – when you move away from your desk and onto the firing line, you don't want to be encumbered with laptops and the like. So on the more adventurous field firing ranges, I ventured into the 21st century with something a little more portable – the Ballistics FTE app software, which I used on my iPhone.

The varied conditions, which as well as the usual elements of range and wind, include more technical elements like temperature, elevation, humidity, uphill and downhill shots require further compensation. Handy tools like iPhones can both measure these angles with inbuilt clinometers and calculate further variables entered to show 'real time' firing solutions that can be dialled in at the firing point. Of course this computation and scope dialling still require some editing from your own brain's experience.

As much as we love our modern smart phones, the one thing that I never trust is their ability to withstand rough treatment. I wanted something portable but tougher, offering compact, convenient and reliable technology to fulfil my growing thirst for data. A hard-wearing, waterproof digital watch manufactured by 5.11 Tactical was my prize.

Although not measuring angles or calculating every possible atmospheric variable, options which are available on the iPhone app, I had everything I

needed. At the touch of three buttons on my wrist, a simple display showed the required windage and elevation settings needed to hit the target. Although more limited, the firing solution provided was both accurate, fast and importantly, always with me – and I could use it to tell the time, too.

Running any of these devices requires the input of basic atmospheric data, wind speed and direction and so on, either as an estimated figure or data provided by extra measuring equipment like wind speed meters. The answer would be a device that combined everything in one compact, handheld unit. Kestrel, a well-known and trusted instrument maker, teamed up with Horus to make it.

The Kestrel Horus 4500 NV unit measures everything. It uses GPS coordinates to calculate Coriolis effects and a blanket incorporation of virtually every known variable, from elevation above sea level to humidity and dew point. On top of all this, it combines a compass bearing for the target to a compass bearing of the predominant wind condition. If left aligned with this wind, it offers a second-by-second update to your firing solution without touching a button. Mount it on its own mini tripod with a wind vane and the unit rotates all by itself to maintain this data. Of course, the downside is it is not always directly facing you.

Yes, all of these systems could be ridiculed as 'toys' and it is undeniable that they are only as accurate as the information upon which they are fed. But I believe they are an interesting further accessory to our armouries, providing data that is, if theoretical, undeniably objective data.

All of them offer features and complexity proportional to their prices and I use all except the Kestrel daily. Regularly testing new rifles and calibres means I need a lot of data. The Kestrel, although fantastic, is a little more than I need. The one thing I cannot deny is that of course you can only measure the wind where you are and the bullet may well experience 1,200 yards or more of variability in flight. Fancy kit can only take you so far – it will always be a case of combining tech with the gift of reading the wind and flags to get you all the way to the paper. ■

Once set, the Kestrel's screen displays only critical data to avoid confusion. Though by far the most complex to use, it is rewarding for your work

The smallest air currents are detected by the anemometer on the Kestrel and can be input into any device



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Obituaries



MICHAEL 'MICK' JOHN KLIMOWICZ:

JANUARY 1948 - JULY 2011

The sudden death of Mick has left his family shocked and greatly saddened, and has also left his shooting companions with a profound sense of loss. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Pauline, daughters Louise, Anna and Alexandra and all the family.

Mick's association with the Bury CTC began soon after its formation. For the last few years he had undertaken the duties of Treasurer with good humour and dedication. Mick was an active committee member.

About 10 years ago he joined Hollies Shooting Club, Ipswich (of which he was an active member), and was issued with his first FAC which gave him greater opportunity to experience different firearms and disciplines.

This ultimately led him to an interest in black powder cartridge rifles, which he used to shoot at Bisley. As fellow members of the SSBPCRC we spent many hours together travelling to and from Bisley and I will miss his company and our discussions on any and all subjects.

Like most of us Mick was never going to 'set the world on fire' with his shooting but he loved every minute of the experience, whether he was shooting rifle, black powder pistol or shotgun.

A dedicated family man and caravanning enthusiast, Mick was a good friend, kind and generous. He will be greatly missed by everybody who knew him.

Steve Bonfield

RUPERT ELVINS:

1969 - 14 JUNE 2011

The death of Rupert Elvins at his home in Melbourne on 14 June 2011, aged just 41 years, has shocked and saddened all those who knew him. Rupert leaves behind his wife, Juliet McEachran, and their young daughters Amy and Jess.

Rupert was born in 1969 in London and educated at Harrow and St Andrews University in Scotland. At university Rupert developed a serious interest in rifle shooting, both smallbore and fullbore. Within a short space of time he became very proficient under the guidance of Bob Aitken.

Rupert was soon shooting regularly. He started shooting for the East of Scotland and the County of London in the early 1990s, and was in the team that won the County Long in 1995. Rupert was also committed to the Scottish Rifle team. In 1992 he was selected for his first National match, followed by seven further caps between 1994 and 2005.

In 2007 the family emigrated to Melbourne. Rupert had shipped out his rifle to Australia and had started to shoot for the MCC rifle club, an affiliate of the Melbourne Cricket Club, thereby shortcutting the waiting list considerably (he loved cricket!). Typically his last shoot, in Australia, was a 75.

Rupes – your life was short but you achieved much. You are greatly missed.

Richard Hebblethwaite



COLIN WILKINSON:

2 MAY 1950 - 6 SEPTEMBER 2011

Colin Wilkinson died in September 2011, aged 61, while on holiday in Wales.

Colin was born on 2 May 1950 in Bradford and gained a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He became a professional engineer and worked, among other large projects, on the design and installation of ship lifts for the Royal Navy's nuclear submarines, and installation of nuclear reactors at Heysham and Torness.

A lifelong shooter, Colin joined Keighley Rifle and Pistol Club in his teens. He progressed to fullbore pistol shooting and became proficient at both shooting and reloading his own ammunition. He was an active member at a number of clubs around the country.

Following a move to Shropshire he became a member at the Minsterley Ranges and continued shooting, with fullbore rifle, black powder pistols, and shotgun.

His sense of humour, kindness, and sound advice will be sadly missed by his wife Brenda, family, friends and fellow shooters.

*Roy Stokes, lifelong friend
and shooting companion*



CHRIS WHITE: 1953 - 16 OCTOBER 2011

Readers of the now-defunct *Target Sports*, together with Chris's many friends, will be sad to learn that he passed away on 16 October, aged 58, after a protracted battle with prostate cancer. Our deepest sympathy goes to his good friend Rosa Mann, who was a tower of strength to him in his last few months.

Chris virtually lived for guns and target shooting since his wife Mary pre-deceased him. He probably shot on at least 150 days each year, on every open range in northern England, as well as with his local .22 club (Sunderland). He was a very fine fullbore shooter – as well he should have been, seeing as how he wrote a long series of articles entitled *Target Rifle Basics* in 2008-09, teaching us all how to do it! His writing was rightly popular with both novice and expert shooters.

Chris represented England in matches against Scotland a dozen times, and was County Champion of both Durham and Northumberland on several occasions. He was an outstanding team captain, not only of the City of Newcastle Club but of several very successful NRA teams against the Channel Islands, Wales, and even Continental Europe – which sounds very impressive but was something of a teaching exercise for the inexperienced but keen fullbore shooters from France, Germany and Holland.

Chris had studied Geology at Durham Uni, and became an under-manager at major limestone quarries in Yorkshire and Durham before deciding to go self-employed as an independent vehicle fleet manager based in Nottingham. It was there he met and married Mary, and shot in successful Nottinghamshire teams for many years before returning to his much-loved County Durham.

He retired after his first brush with cancer in 2006 and had several fine years exploring the industrial heritage of the northeast – another subject on which he was an expert! Much in demand as a font of shooting advice and knowledge, he was a good friend to all northern shooters, and will be greatly missed.

Keith Pugh

BOB RUTTER: 1919 - 2011

I met Bob when he joined the RAF Target Rifle Club. Bob became a stalwart supporter, shooting with me when we won the Purples in the early '70s.

Bob was born on 19 November 1919 in Sunderland. Following the outbreak of war Bob volunteered for the Royal Air Force. His abilities quickly got him into Special Operations on Stirlings. Here he was involved in low level sorties into Europe at night. Some of these were recorded by his pilot in a fascinating memoir.

At the end of the war Bob went to teacher training in Sunderland, where he saw his future wife Pat on a tram and ran after it to climb on and introduce himself!

After marriage he taught several subjects in the local secondary school and earned a physics degree from London University. He landed a very responsible job with the Atomic Energy Authority and doubled his salary overnight.

Bob, Pat and their three children settled in Woking. As a family hobby Bob and his children started smallbore at Worplesdon and then moved on to Bisley, where he applied his analytical mind to fullbore shooting. He had his own wind cards, down to quarter minutes, and bedded his own rifles. One of these was in parts on the kitchen table the night before another shooter borrowed it and won the Queen's. Bob's own successes included four Queen's badges (1972, '76, '79, '81), two



appearances in the Grand Top 50 (1970, '75) and winning the Families with his son Geoff in 1976. He was reserve for England at the 1977 National Match.

In retirement Bob continued to shoot with the RAF until his eyesight failed, a tragedy for a man who loved his books and acquired knowledge, including camera repairs and clock restoration. I learned a lot from him over our many interesting meetings the last two weeks before he died. I and his shooting fraternity miss him greatly.

Mike Turner

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THURSDAY 9.30 - 5.30 • FRIDAY 9.30 - 5.30 • SATURDAY 9.30 - 4.30

NRA *notices*

Following the recent changes and reorganisation, the current structure of the National Rifle Association is as follows:

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL (BOARD OF TRUSTEES)

Dr. R. Pizer	Chairman
Mr. C.J. Murton	<i>Vice Chairman – Elected</i>
Mr. J.P.S. Bloomfield	<i>Ex-officio Chairman Shooting Committee</i>
Mr. D.G.F. Evans	<i>Ex-officio Chairman Disciplinary Committee</i>
Mr. D.T. Frank	<i>Co-opted</i>
Mr. P.H. Hobson	<i>Elected</i>
Mr. D. Mabbott	<i>Co-opted</i>
Mr. M. Maksimovic	<i>Elected</i>
Mrs. D.C. Meredith	<i>Treasurer</i>
Vacant	<i>Ex officio Chairman Membership Committee</i>

In attendance

Mrs. E.M. Buttle *Secretary to the Council*

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Mrs. D.C. Meredith	Chairman
Mr. D. Mabbott	

REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

Mr. D. Mabbott	Chairman
Mrs. D.C. Meredith	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mr. C.J. Murton	

NATIONAL SHOOTING CENTRE LIMITED - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. D. Mabbott	<i>Non Executive (Trustee)</i>
Mr. M. Maksimovic	<i>Non Executive (Trustee)</i>
Mr. R. Neighbour	<i>Non Executive</i>

THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Dr. R. Pizer	Chairman
Mrs. D.C. Meredith	<i>Treasurer</i>
Prof. A.R. Horrocks	<i>Vice Chairman Ordinary</i>
Mr. G.K. Alexander	<i>Ordinary</i>
Mr. T. Bobbett	<i>Clay Pigeon Shooting Association</i>
Mr. H.R.M. Baillie	<i>Regional – Northern Ireland</i>
Mr. G.V. Barnard	<i>Regional – East Midlands</i>
Mrs. I.D. Bennett	<i>Regional – West Midlands</i>
Mr. G. Trembath	<i>Northern</i>
Mr. J.P.S. Bloomfield	<i>Ordinary</i>
Col. (Ret'd) W.G.C. Bowles	<i>Ministry of Defence</i>
Mr. C.M. Brooks	<i>Ordinary</i>
Wg. Cdr. D.P. Calvert	<i>Ordinary</i>
Dr. A. Cargill Thompson	<i>Shooting Discipline – Match Rifle</i>
Mr. J.H. Carmichael	<i>Ordinary</i>
Mr. A.R.K. Clayton	<i>Ordinary</i>
Mr. P.R. Coley	<i>Regional – South Western</i>
Cdr. I.G. Danbury	<i>Royal Naval/Royal Marines Rifle Association</i>
Mr. A.J. Duffy	<i>Appointed - Shooting Discipline – (Target Shotgun)</i>
Mr. D.G.F. Evans	<i>Ex-officio (Chairman Disciplinary Body)</i>
Mr. M.G. Farnan	<i>Ordinary</i>
Mr. C.N. Farr	<i>Co-opted</i>
Mr. N.J. Francis	<i>Shooting Discipline – Gallery Rifle & Pistol</i>

Maj. (Ret'd) S.B. Fraser	<i>Secretary TARA/CCRS</i>
Mr. E.J. Gardener	<i>Ordinary</i>
Mr. G.M.L.N. Gilpin	<i>Ordinary</i>
Mr. K. Nash	<i>National Small-bore Rifle Association</i>
Mr. P.H. Hobson	<i>Shooting Discipline – F Class Rifle</i>
Wg. Cdr. C.J. Hockley	<i>Welsh Target Shooting Federation</i>
Mr. J.A. Horton	<i>Co-opted</i>
Maj. A. Higham	<i>Army Rifle Association</i>
Mr. P. Hunter	<i>Shooting Discipline – Practical Rifle</i>
Mr. M.D. Jones MP	<i>Co-opted</i>
Mr. T.L.W. Kidner	<i>Regional - Scotland</i>
Mr. J.M. Kynoch	<i>Shooting Discipline – Sporting Rifle</i>
Mr. G.A.E. Larcombe	<i>Ordinary</i>
Lt. Col. C.S.T. Lehman	<i>Co-opted</i>
Cmdr. MJC Magan RN	<i>Royal Naval/Royal Marines Rifle Association</i>
Mr. M. Maksimovic	<i>Ordinary</i>
Mr. H.J. Malins MP	<i>Co-opted</i>
Mr. C.C. Mallett Jnr	<i>Jersey Rifle Association</i>
Mr. M.F. Martel	<i>Guernsey Rifle Club</i>
Mr. J.F. Miller	<i>Appointed Regional – London & South East</i>
Mr. C. Murton	<i>Co-opted</i>
Mrs. K. Robertson	<i>Ordinary</i>
Mr. I.W. Robertson	<i>Ordinary/Shooting Discipline – Target Rifle</i>
Mr. A.J.D. Saunders	<i>English Target Shooting Federation</i>
Mr. I. Shirra-Gibb	<i>Shooting Discipline – 300m</i>
Brig. J.R. Smales	<i>Council for Cadet Rifle Shooting</i>
Mr. D.E. Spittles	<i>Shooting Discipline – Muzzle Loading</i>
Wg. Cdr. M. Symonds	<i>Royal Auxiliary Air Force Target Shooting Committee</i>
Col. W.J. O'Leary	<i>Territorial Army Rifle Association</i>
Sqn. Ldr. P. Upham	<i>Royal Air Force Small Arms Association</i>
Mr. S. Wallis	<i>Chairman British Sporting Rifle</i>
Mr. J.D. Warburton	<i>Regional – Yorks/Humberside</i>
Mr. M.T. Watkins	<i>Regional - Wales</i>
Mr. J.A. Watson	<i>Ordinary</i>
Mr. D.D. Watt	<i>Regional - Eastern</i>
Mr. W.D.C. Wilcox	<i>Ordinary</i>
Mr. R.H.F. Wills	<i>Shooting Discipline – Classic Arms</i>
Mr. M.J. Wood	<i>Co-opted</i>
Mr. D.G. Young	<i>Regional – North Western</i>
	<i>In attendance</i>
Mrs. E.M. Buttle	<i>Secretary to the General Council</i>

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Mr. I.W. Robertson	<i>Vice Chairman (Target Rifle)</i>
Mr. G.V. Barnard	
Wg. Cdr. D.P. Calvert	
Dr. A.M.W. Cargill Thompson	<i>Match Rifle</i>
Mr. J.H. Carmichael	
Lt. Col. A.R.K. Clayton	
Maj. S.H. Cox	<i>Ex-Officio – Chairman of the Schools Committee/CCRS Schools</i>
Mr. C.N. Farr	<i>Co-opted – Chairman of Training Sub-Committee</i>
Mr. N.J. Francis	<i>Gallery Rifle & Pistol</i>
Mr. A.J. Duffy	<i>Appointed - Target Shotgun</i>

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 Mr. J.M. Kynoch *Sporting Rifle*
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 Mr. P. Quilliam *Co-opted*
 Mr. I. Shirra-Gibb *300 Metre*
 Mr. D. Spittles *Muzzle Loading*
 Mr. M.K. Townsend *Ex-Officio - Chairman Team Finance Committee*
 Mr. R.H.F. Wills *Classic Arms*
In attendance
 Mrs. E.M. Buttle *Secretary to the Committee*
 Prof. A.R. Horrocks

Target Rifle Sub-Committee

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Mr. J.P.S. Bloomfield
 Mr. J. Cload
 Dr. J.D.S. Langley
 Mr. G.A.E. Larcombe
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 Mr. W.C. Cuthbert
 Mr. P.H. Hobson
 Mr. D.N. Kent
 Mr. D. Parr
 Mr. D.A. Stewart

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Mr. N.J. Francis Chairman

Mr. C.S. Bestwick
 Mr. A.J. Dagger
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 Any member of the NRA with an interest is invited to request an invitation to attend

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 Capt. P.J. Farnan *Co-opted*

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 Lt. S. Heard *Clifton College*
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 Capt. C.A. Stewart *Dollar Academy*
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 Brig. J.R. Smales *Chairman CCRS*
 Lt. Col. N.S. Suffield-Jones *Athelings*
 Maj. N.E. Topham *Oratory*
In attendance
 Maj. S.B. Fraser *Secretary*

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Mr. M.K. Townsend Chairman

Mr. G.K. Alexander
 Dr. J.R. Deane
 Wg. Cdr. C.J. Hockley
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 Mr. R.C.T. Jeens
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 Mrs. M.J. Pearse
 Mr. I. Shirra-Gibb
 Mr. R.W.H. Stafford *Secretary*
 Mr. P.R. Stead
 Mr. C.N. Tremlett
 Mr. E.R. Welford
In attendance
 Mrs. E.M. Buttle *Secretary to the Committee*

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Vacant Chairman

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 Mr. C.N. Farr
 Miss S.S. Lohmann *Co-opted*
 Mr. M. Maksimovic
 Mrs. K.D. Robertson
 Mr. J.A. Watson
In attendance
 Mrs. E.M. Buttle *Secretary to the Committee*
 Mr. N.D. Halford *Membership Assistant*
 Mr. C.D. Webb *Regional Manager*
 Mrs. H.L. Webb *Membership Secretary*

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 Wg. Cdr. D.P. Calvert *Lay*
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 Mr. D.G. Lacey *Legal*
 Lt. Col. C.S.T. Lehmann *Lay*
 Mr. C.E. McEachran **Chairman Appeal Committee - Legal**
 Mr. R. Sayer *Legal*
 Mr. R.H.F. Wills *Lay*
 Mr. M.J. Wood *Lay*
In attendance
 Mr. D. Mabbott *Acting Secretary General*

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SAT 31ST 9.30-2, MON 2ND TUES 3RD
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Bisley Clubs' Easter Meeting 2012

The traditional early season competition will be organised next year by the North London Rifle Club. Starting on the afternoon of Saturday 7th April there will be a full programme of shooting through to the final 900 and 1000 yards events on the morning of Easter Monday. If you would like an entry form in due course contact the NLRC at secretary@nlrc.org or by post to North London Rifle Club, Bisley Camp, Brookwood, Woking, Surrey GU24 0NY.

CANADA & USA TOUR 2012

Jeremy Langley will captain the Great Britain Rifle team to Canada and the USA in 2012. The rest of the squad consists of J Lewis (vice), R McQuillan (Adj.), M Charlton (Coach), M Ensor (Coach), Ball, Cload, Daw (NC), Jeens, Luckman, McCullough (NC), Patel, Pugsley, Purdy (NC), Ramsey, Rankin, Underwood, C Watson, J Watson and Young (NC).

NRA TEAM TO CHANNEL ISLANDS 2012

The NRA's team to the tour the Channel Islands will include Garnett Faulkner (Captain), Richard Bailie (Adjutant) and will be coached by Chris Fitzpatrick and Peter Coley. The shooting team will be made up of Morgan, Joseph, Alexander, Chapman-Sheath, Kitson, Power, Cannings, Molan, Dash and Smith with Hoolahan and Mostyn in reserve.

GB Match Rifle Training Squad for the 2012 Woomera Match

The following have been selected for the Great Britain Match Rifle Training Squad for the 2012 Woomera Match at Bisley

Captain.....	Alex Cargill Thompson
Vice-Captain.....	Nick Tremlett
Adjutant	Simon Whitby
Treasurer.....	Derek Lowe
Squad	Gary Alexander
Mike Barlow	Ted Hobbs
Mike Baillie-Hamilton	Gareth James
Nick Brasier	Tim Kidner
Loulou Brister	Chris Law
David Calvert	Rob Lygoe
Kate Fitton	Jim McAllister
David Friend	Will Meldrum
Rosanne Furniss	Julian Peck
Andy Gent	John Pugsley
Alex Henderson	Martin Townsend
Nick Hinchcliffe	

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To order, send a cheque payable to 'Great Britain Rifle Team to South Africa' to Karen Robertson, National Rifle Association, Bisley Camp, Brookwood, Woking, Surrey GU24 0PB.

Team Captaincies

The following are congratulated on their appointments as Captains of the following teams:

Nick Tremlett GB Kolapore Team 2012

Stuart Young GB U25 Team Captain U25 Team Match 2012
and GB U25 Team Captain South Africa 2013.

NOMINATIONS REQUIRED

Nominations are required for a Captain for the following Rifle Teams:

NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2013

GB Gallery Rifle Team 2012 & 2013

GB TR Team to South Africa 2014

Nominations for all teams must be sent to the Secretary General by Saturday 14th January 2012

"AUNTS" & "UNCLES" SCHEME – SUMMER 2011

First of all and most importantly, my sincerest thanks go to the many skilled and experienced firers who contribute so much to making the Scheme the success it has become. I continue to be amazed by the number of people who so willingly give their time to this internationally acclaimed venture.

The Scheme ran seamlessly this summer. The only "Niece" or "Nephew" to fail to contact the allocated "Aunt" or "Uncle" turned out to have good reason not to do so – and subsequently tendered an apology which was as graceful as it was welcome.

It was also pleasing to receive plaudits for the two Guides To The Meeting which are available to all on the NRA website. These are a spin-off from the Scheme and, being updated annually, can be useful to anyone. [To access these, highlight the "competitions" tab, highlight "Imperial Meeting 2011" (to become "2012"), click on "Imperial Meeting Information" and, in the bottom right of the main box which comes up on screen, select whichever download ("The Guide for Cadets" or "The Guide for Adults") that you consider appropriate.]

There remains, though, one area of concern. In circumstances which were as unusual as they were unpredictable, I took the Scheme back from my skilful and efficient successor to keep it going (it has proved to be far too valuable to allow it to vanish – or, perhaps worse, to allow it to deteriorate in quality). Accordingly, I now find myself needing to hand it all over once again.

If anyone feels that s/he can devote the time to it and would like to know exactly what is involved, please drop me an email on tje@easynet.co.uk.

Tim Elliott (Former NRA Chief National Coach TR)

TJ Elliott, Lark Hill, Haynes West End, Bedfordshire MK45 3RB.
Email: tje@easynet.co.uk. Telephone: 01234-740334.

NRA General Council Elections

Chris Farr has been co-opted by the General Council as an Ordinary Member of the General Council for a period of three years

Regional Members

Guy Trembath has been elected Northern Region representative for a period of 2 years.

John Miller has been appointed by the General Council as Greater London & South representative for a period of one year.

Shooting Discipline Members.

Neil Francis has been elected Gallery Rifle representative for a period of three years.

Andy Duffy has been appointed by the General Council as Target Shotgun representative for a period of one year.

NRA Committee Elections 2011

The 2011 Committee election process is now complete and the following appointments were announced:

Members of the General Council re-elected to the Membership Committee, for three years, Gary Alexander and, for one year, James Watson.

Annual General Meeting

The NRA held its AGM for 2011 at the NRA Pavilion, Bisley on 29 June. The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Chief Executive and Head of Finance were all in attendance, as were 39 members.

To begin, the Council agreed re-election of the President and Vice Presidents, and the Chairman announced the proposed restructuring that would bring the NRA and NSC together. He then reported on the Association's financial performance and how it would address the "systemic issues" that had caused financial problems.

The Council then took questions and comments from the Members. Full minutes of the meeting are available online at www.nra.org.uk.

Bisley General Meeting

The NRA held the 2011 BGM on 20 July, after Queen's I had been shot at the Imperial. The Chairman, Vice Chairmen and Chief Executive were in attendance along with 130 members.

The full minutes, including the Chairman's opening speech and the questions and comments from the Members, are available online at www.nra.org.uk. alternatively contact Elaine Buttle who will be happy to post a copy to you.

2012 Marksman's Calendar

The Marksman's Calendar is published on the NRA website in the Calendar sub-menu. For those members without internet access and who cannot get a friend or club member to print a copy for them, please contact Karen Robertson who will be happy to post a copy to you.

The Marksman's Calendar 2012 is now being compiled. Please could club secretaries check the Calendar carefully. To have club fixtures, whether to be held at Bisley or elsewhere, included, please send details to karen@nra.org.uk. Please do not include minor events such as practice sessions. Details need to be with Karen by the middle of January. Once your fixtures are listed on the website, please recheck the details and confirm that the email link is directed to the correct person.

Contact email addresses are hidden on the website-based calendar (to prevent electronic harvesting of your address), but are visible on the downloadable printed version. Please provide such contact details as you are happy to have made public.

PROVISIONAL CALENDAR DATES 2012

Courses and training dates are provisional. Please contact Phyllis Farnan for details.

FEBRUARY

04-05 Hand Loading Course (i) Phyllis Farnan, 01483 797777 x 150, training@nra.org.uk

18 Target Shotgun Festival (i) Brian Thomas, 01483 797777 x 148, brian.thomas@nra.org.uk

18-19 Range Conducting Officer Course
(i) Maureen Peach, 01483 797777 x 149, maureen.peach@nra.org.uk

MARCH

10-11 Club Instructor Course – General Skills
(i) Phyllis Farnan, 01483 797777 x 150, training@nra.org.uk

24-25 Gallery Rifle – Spring Action Weekend

(i) Chris Farr, chris.farr@nra.org.uk

24-25 Range Conducting Officer Course
(i) Maureen Peach, 01483 797777 x 149, maureen.peach@nra.org.uk

APRIL

07-09 Bisley Clubs Easter Meeting

(i) NLRC, secretary@nlrc.org

21-22 Range Conducting Officer Course
(i) Maureen Peach, 01483 797777 x 149, maureen.peach@nra.org.uk

April 28 Clubs Mini Palma Match (i) Karen Robertson, 01483 797777 x 146, karen@nra.org.uk

29 Purples Match (i) John Bloomfield, 01623 491199, jbsbloomfield@btconnect.com

MAY

06 RCO (HME) Course (i) Maureen Peach, 01483 797777 x 149, maureen.peach@nra.org.uk
12-13 The English Eight Club, National Rifle Club of Scotland & Welsh Rifle Association Spring Meeting (i) English VIII, bill@englisheight.co.uk

12-13 Target Rifle Skills Course (i) Phyllis Farnan, 01483 797777 x 150, training@nra.org.uk

19-20 NRA 300M Championships

(i) Shooting Division, shootsec@nra.org.uk

26-27 Range Conducting Officer Course
(i) Maureen Peach, 01483 797777 x 149, maureen.peach@nra.org.uk

01-03 Phoenix Meeting (i) Chris Farr,

chris.farr@nra.org.uk

04 Phoenix International Match (i) Chris Farr, chris.farr@nra.org.uk

16 NRA Percussion Revolver Championships
(i) David Gregory, daviatricia.theledge@talktalk.net

16-17 NRA Inter-Counties Meeting (i) Karen Robertson, 01483 797777 x 146, karen@nra.org.uk

27-01 Jul NRA Imperial Meeting – Civilian Service Rifle Meeting

(i) Shooting Division, shootsec@nra.org.uk

27-21 Jul NRA Imperial Meeting

(i) NRA Imperial Meeting, squadding@nra.org.uk

JULY

05 Bisley V Club Schools and Cadet Match

(i) Mick Barr, mbarr@homerange.freeseerve.co.uk

11-15 NRA Imperial Meeting – Pistol and Gallery Rifle Events (i) Chris Webb, 01483 797777 ext 156, regman@nra.org.uk

07-12 NRA Imperial Meeting – Match Rifle Events (i) Karen Robertson,

01483 797777 x 146, karen@nra.org.uk

07-08 NRA Imperial Meeting – Historic Arms Events (i) Chris Farr, chris.farr@nra.org.uk

09-12 NRA Imperial Meeting – Schools Meeting

(i) Phyllis Farnan, 01483 797777 x 150, training@nra.org.uk

12 NRA Imperial Meeting – Schools Veterans Match

(i) NRA Imperial Meeting, squadding@nra.org.uk

12 NRA Imperial Meeting – Ashburton Shield

(i) Phyllis Farnan, 01483 797777 x 150, training@nra.org.uk

12-21 NRA Imperial Meeting – Target Rifle Events (i) Karen Robertson,

01483 797777 x 146, karen@nra.org.uk

13-21 NRA Imperial Meeting – F Class Rifle Events (i) Karen Robertson,

01483 797777 x 146, karen@nra.org.uk

21 NRA Imperial Meeting – HM Queens Prize (i)

Karen Robertson, 01483 797777 x 146, karen@nra.org.uk

AUGUST

25-26 Gallery Rifle National Championships

(i) Chris Farr, chris.farr@nra.org.uk

SEPTEMBER

02 Methods of Instruction and Assessment Workshop (i) Phyllis Farnan, 01483 797777 x 150,

training@nra.org.uk

22-23 The English Eight Club and Irish Eight Club Autumn Meeting (i) English VIII, bill@englisheight.co.uk

27-30 Commonwealth Shooting Federation (European Division) Championships (Jersey (Channel Islands)) (i) Derek Bernard, 01534 769460, DB@TSJersey.com

OCTOBER

06-07 Wind Coaching Course (i) Phyllis Farnan, 01483 797777 x 150, training@nra.org.uk

13-14 European Long Range Team Championships (i) Karen Robertson, 01483 797777 x 146, karen@nra.org.uk

13-14 Range Conducting Officer Course (i) Maureen Peach, 01483 797777 x 149, maureen.peach@nra.org.uk

20-21 Trafalgar Meeting (i) Chris Farr, chris.farr@nra.org.uk

27-28 Ages Match (i) Karen Robertson, 01483 797777 x 146, karen@nra.org.uk

27-28 Gallery Rifle - Autumn Action Weekend
(i) Chris Farr, chris.farr@nra.org.uk

NOVEMBER

10 Target Shotgun Festival (i) Brian Thomas, 01483 797777 x 148, brian.thomas@nra.org.uk

10-11 Range Conducting Officer Course
(i) Maureen Peach, 01483 797777 x 149, maureen.peach@nra.org.uk

DECEMBER

16 RCO (HME) Course (i) Maureen Peach, 01483 797777 x 149, maureen.peach@nra.org.uk
A fuller calendar will be available in the Spring edition of the Journal.

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